

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 128 * September 2026



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, September 8th, 2026. The meeting location will be at **First Evangelical Church, West Entrance, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd** down the street from the Hilton Hotel near Poplar and I-240. See the Delta Club webpage at: <http://www.deltaclub.org> for detailed instructions with pictures on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is available at the left side parking lot with the West entrance being at the far end of the parking lot. The meeting will be in room E234.

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 p.m. in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
 - Tech Support - Alinco DMR Programming
- **Membership Meeting begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Part One - DIY Shack Power
 - Part Two - DigiPi
 - Part Three - ARDOP

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!

Until further notice, our current monthly meeting location is:

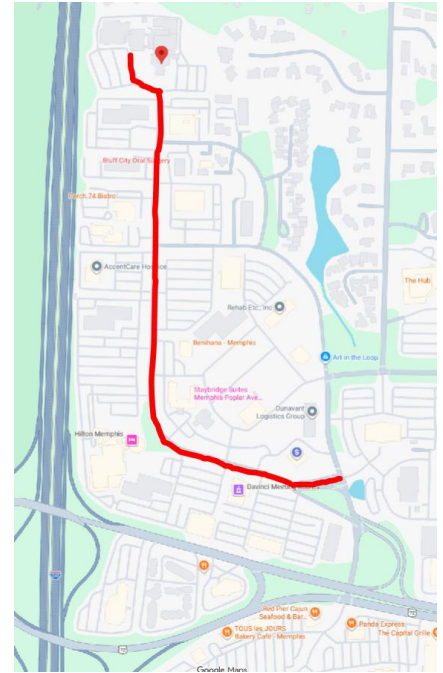
First Evangelical Church
735 Ridge Lake Blvd
Memphis, TN 38120

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Ham 101 begins at 6:00 p.m., and FCC testing registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

The church is near Poplar Avenue and I-240, down the street from the Hilton Hotel.

We are not currently able to move back to the Arlington location because our request for meeting space was rejected.

The board welcomes suggestions for other possible meeting locations.



COAX AND EQUIPMENT AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

There will be a table at the September meeting with coax and equipment offered at bargain prices. Bring your money!

GENERAL CLASS 4-26 — OCTOBER 29–DECEMBER 10, 2026

A General license class is proposed for six Thursday nights from 7:00–9:00 p.m. on October 29; November 5, 12, and 19; and December 3 and 10, provided at least six students register.

The class will use a new format: students will watch Ham Radio Prep videos during the week and attend a question-and-answer (Elmer) session. The class fee is \$30. To register, email wa4ovo@gmail.com with “General Class” in the subject line and include your name, callsign, email address, and cellphone number.

BLUFF CITY BLUES RIDE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — OCTOBER 17

The Bluff City Blues Ride is an opportunity to use your amateur radio license and skills in support of a community event. DARC has supported the Memphis Hightailers ride for several years and will participate again this year. The ride starts and finishes at Grind City Brewing Company, with 20-, 40-, 62-, and 100-mile routes covering northern Shelby County. It begins at 7:30 a.m. and usually has a 4:00 p.m. cutoff.

Communications will use the 146.82 MHz repeater. Most positions can be handled with a handheld, although a higher-power mobile unit will work better on some parts of the course. Volunteers drive the routes, update the ride director on riders’ progress, and assist riders between support stations. Beer, barbecue, and live music follow the ride. Route and support-station information is available at <http://www.bcb100.com>.

To volunteer or request more information, contact Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, at sfrazier1@bellsouth.net or 901-218-6385. Steve will also be available at the September 8 membership meeting.

BARTLETT FIRE DEPARTMENT PANCAKE BREAKFAST — OCTOBER 17

DARC also plans to participate in the Bartlett Fire Department Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 17. Additional details will be announced when available.

NOVEMBER DOOR PRIZES

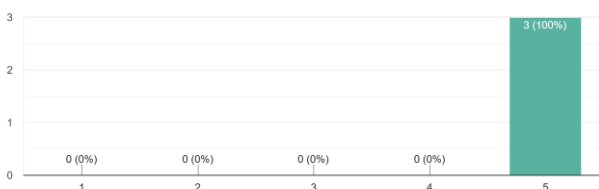
Planning has begun for the November meeting door prizes. Send prize ideas to Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, at publications@deltacub.org.

August Membership Meeting Signal Report

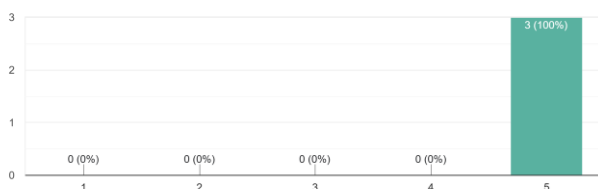
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 33 people on the sign in sheet and 3 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

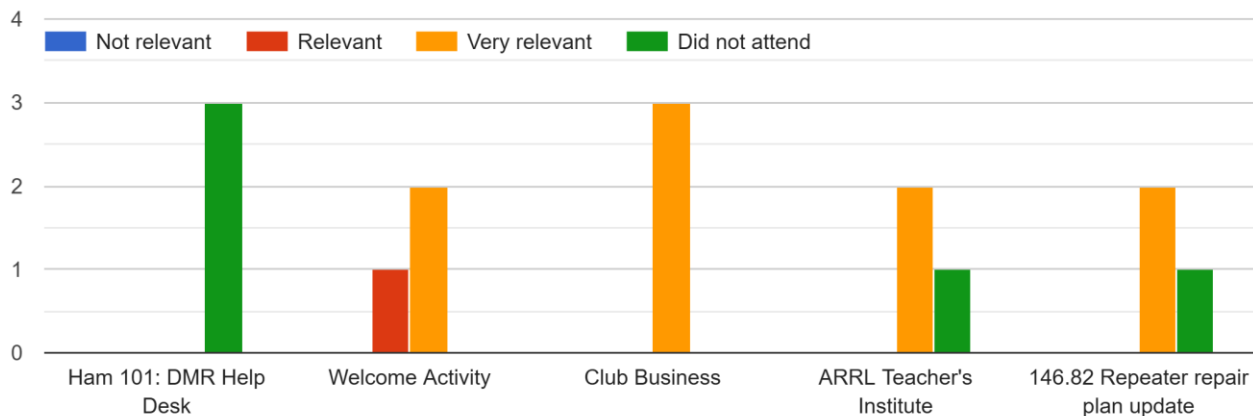
How satisfied were you with the event?
3 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

0 response

Any additional comments regarding the sessions or overall agenda?

1 response

What exactly is raspberry pi for a beginner ham

President's Corner

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Summer is still with us—how many of you hoped it would be gone by now? We had a great end-of-summer bus trip to Huntsville, with 38 people on the bus, including several new hams and many experienced ones. We also saw many purchases come home under the bus! With a great event behind us, let's look forward to some fun things coming up in our club.

ACTIVITIES COMING UP FOR THE DELTA CLUB

- September Membership Meeting — September 8
- October Membership Meeting — October 13 — Board members are nominated at this meeting.
- Bluff City Blues Bike Ride — October 17, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. — DARC supports this annual bike ride with logistics and radio coverage where cellular coverage is unavailable.
- Bartlett Fire Department Pancake Breakfast — October 17, 7:00–11:00 a.m. — DARC has been invited to host a tent and showcase amateur radio.
- November Membership Meeting — November 10 — Annual board-member elections and door-prize giveaway.
- December Membership Meeting — December 8 — Annual Christmas dinner, potluck, and social gathering.

NEEDS FOR THE DELTA CLUB

- The board currently has an open position for next year: Director of Programs. We also need a couple of people to assist our current secretary and treasurer. If you are willing to help lead our club, please contact me or any board member.
- Please renew your membership for 2027. You are also welcome to renew for 2026 if you have not already done so. If you have renewed, thank you. If not, join us at this week's membership meeting and let us help you renew. At \$20, membership is a fantastic value. We now accept electronic payments through Square at <https://delta-amateur-radio-club.square.site/>. You may also bring cash or a check to the 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

Vice President's Corner

Submitted by Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

September—what a crazy month. It's fall, but it's still incredibly hot. But that just means we're still chilling inside on the airwaves. Hopefully everyone has had an incredible summer. As I'm writing this, I'm getting ready for the Tennessee QSO Party. Hopefully everyone had a good event if they participated. This year got really busy for me as God changed my career path. While I might need to step away from the extra activities, I look forward to continuing to see where the club goes. We're in a good place as we're about to do some massive work on the Brunswick repeaters. Let's keep moving forward and see where the future puts us.

Program's Corner

Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

September Membership Meeting Program

Ham 101 at 6:00 p.m. will cover Alinco DMR programming.

The membership-meeting program will cover DIY Shack Power, DigiPi, and ARDOP.

ARDOP Winlink by DL2MAN

DL2MAN, creator of the ultra-portable truSDX transceivers, has developed a web-based Winlink client for ARDOP connections. Connect a supported radio by USB, set the frequency manually, and connect without installing drivers or software.

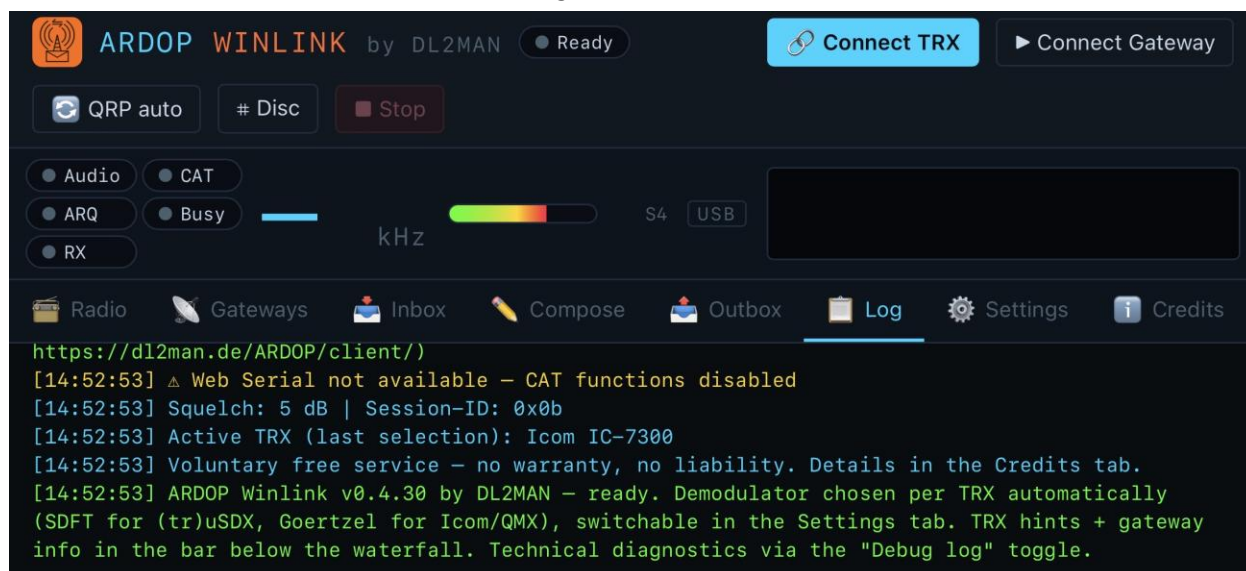
<https://dl2man.de/ARDOP/>

Mac Winlink

A new version of Winlink is available for macOS. Mac Winlink is available through TestFlight, and a beta release is also available from the Winlink development team.

<https://github.com/ijones9527/macwinlink-releases>

Adam White, K4SPB — DARC Director of Programs



ARDOP Winlink web client by DL2MAN

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

It is going to be a busy month or two for the repeaters. We will order the antennas this month and pick them up, saving approximately \$1,000 in shipping. Once all hardware is on site, we will notify the tower climbers. Unlike during the 5G rollouts, the climbers currently expect to need only about a week's notice.

The 146.625 MHz Germantown repeater has failed. We have a replacement repeater and controller ready, but access to the Germantown site is restricted and must be scheduled with the Germantown representative. I hope that can happen soon.

After the Brunswick and Germantown sites are resolved, I want to resume adding AllStar controllers at our other sites.

I appreciate everyone who has helped with the repeaters. Many people have pitched in, including Adam, K4SPB, and Joe, NS4E, who helped obtain quotes.

Please join us for Ham 101 at 6:00 p.m. on meeting nights. If you need help programming a radio, fixing something simple, or just want us to look at your equipment, bring it with you.

See you at the meeting!

Dan Fleek, AA4DF

YouTube Addict

North Georgia GMRS Group Hit With FCC Enforcement Action

https://youtu.be/4b-DpAvgz_s

Is the CB Radio Revolution is Happening Right Now?

<https://youtu.be/tldGDK1B6T8>

Icom IC-7110: The New 100W HF/VHF/UHF All-Mode Radio

<https://youtu.be/onBMk07UHDc>

The FCC Just Shut Down This Major GMRS Network

<https://youtu.be/YqDUAPGoL8o>

Why Everyone is Talking About GMRS Repeater Linking

<https://youtu.be/T9t4f6H2Klo>

Getting Started Using SDR for Satellite Operations

<https://youtu.be/hLpP5KEsHbc>

How GPS Time Servers Worked in the 1990s—and How Similar Technology Disrupted Cell Service Across Australia

<https://youtu.be/CivRNW0b1H8>

Remembering James Butler, KB4LJV

It is with a heavy heart that we present the final Amateur Hardware Update and Packet Update columns in SPARKS. James Butler, KB4LJV, became a Silent Key on August 14, 2026—only three days after he submitted his September articles for editing. He wrote these columns for more than 30 years.

The SPARKS archive reaches back to January 1997, where two of James's articles appeared. We reprint those two archive articles below, followed by his final September 2026 columns.

FROM JANUARY 1997 SPARKS

Hardware Update

Many amateurs operate on the HF frequencies. The most common modes are SSB and CW. Anyone who has operated on HF knows what noise and interference can do to a signal we are trying to receive. To improve signal quality, we use everything from IF filters specifically designed for SSB or CW to digital signal processors that provide audio filtering. While these work well, they also cost money. This month's project is a simple audio filter that allows selection of SSB or CW. The filter consists of only three components. A switch selects the desired mode, and two capacitors change the character of the audio and optimize it for that mode. The filter is easy to build and costs less than \$3. I made my unit with a three-position switch, allowing me to select SSB, CW, or muted audio. The filter performs well considering its price. By experimenting with capacitors of similar values, you can select audio that sounds good to you. I will have the SSB/CW filter at the meeting to show and answer questions for anyone who wishes to build one.

James Butler, KB4LJV

Amateur Packet Update

Most packet equipment runs on 12 volts DC. To run our TNCs and accessories, we need a 115 VAC-to-12 VDC adapter. Radio Shack has introduced a regulated power converter that supplies a clean 12 VDC output at 3 amps continuously. Connections can be made through binding posts on the front, and it also has an automotive cigarette-lighter socket for accessories. A rubber plug covers the socket when it is not in use. This is useful for portable computers and HTs because the same cords used in a car can be used in the house. The unit is part number 22-504 and costs about \$40. If you need a small power supply for your shack, take a look at it.

James Butler, KB4LJV

Packet Update

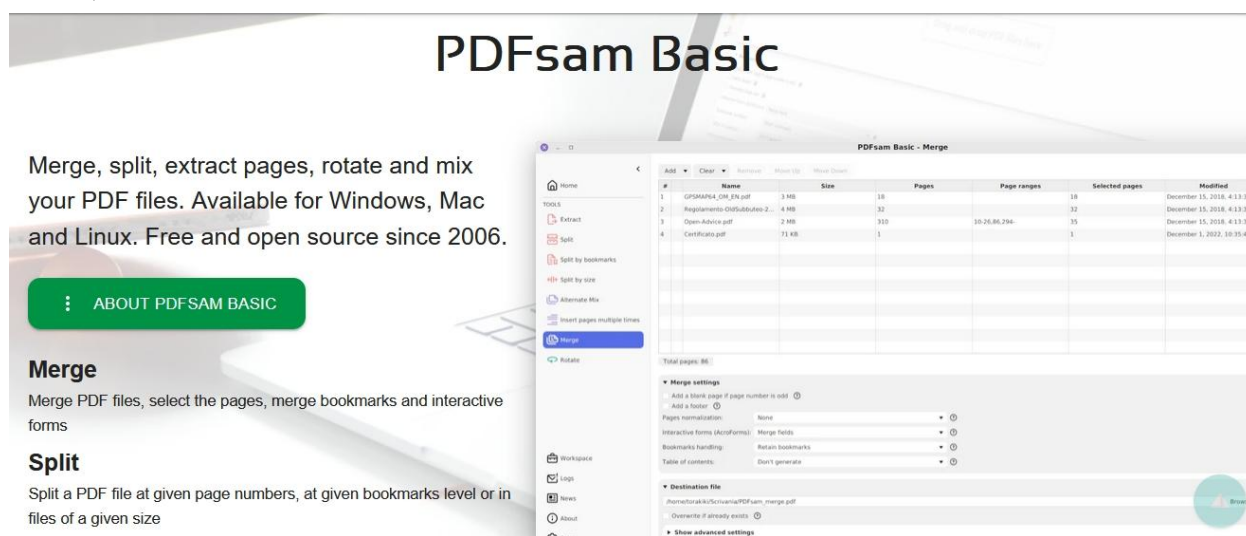
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

We often create documents containing text, pictures, and information from the internet or other sources. One of the most common formats is PDF, which stands for Portable Document Format. PDF files combine different fonts, colors, and images in a document that can be viewed on many computers and operating systems.

PDFsam Basic is a free, open-source program that can merge and split PDFs, extract pages, rotate individual pages, and mix pages into a new document. It is available for Windows, macOS, and Linux. An enhanced edition provides additional features.

<https://pdfsam.org/>

James Butler, KB4LJV



PDFsam Basic

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many amateurs carry handheld radios for the VHF and UHF bands. These radios now offer more features at attractive prices. Baofeng has introduced models with higher power, more memory channels, and larger color displays, often for less than \$50.

Available features include larger battery packs, power levels up to 10 watts, extended receive coverage through 520 MHz, tri-band operation on 2 meters, 220 MHz, and 70 centimeters, and as many as 1,000 memory channels. Videos describing these radios are available on YouTube, and current models can be found by searching online for Baofeng radios.

James Butler, KB4LJV



DARC Director's Reports

ARRL Foundation Grant Decision

On September 3, the ARRL Foundation notified DARC that it would not fund the Brunswick Repeater Tower proposal. The Foundation described the project as worthwhile but said it did not fall within its current priorities. The club can now plan accordingly and move forward with the repeater project.

Member Submissions

Submitted by Joe Sanders, KM4JXS

Android Comms Tablet

By using an inexpensive Android tablet, some apps from the Google Play Store, and a few APKs, a handy, portable Android Comms Tablet can be easily set up using mostly free apps. Throw in a few extra web links added to the Home Screen, and there's a wealth of ham radio knowledge and capabilities just a swipe and click away. Using iOS tablets works well also, but usually costs more.

Select from the apps and browser links listed below—and more found in the Play Store—to quickly and easily create a dedicated custom Comms Tablet. A tablet's larger screen provides an enhanced visual experience for better workflow, frees up the cell phone, and provides a wealth of ham radio information, news, weather, and much more. Many of the apps below will fit on a 64 GB tablet with room to spare. The device used in this project is an Onn 10.1-inch tablet with 64 GB sold by Walmart. These Android tablets usually cost less than \$200.

By using the DVSwitch app, a tablet can become a 2 m/70 cm radio using AllStar and the internet to make contacts around the world. QSO1, VoxDMR, and DroidStar can accomplish the same thing through DMR. If an external USB thumb drive is added, a portable library of PDF manuals can be downloaded for every radio in the shack and easily made available to other computers, phones, and tablets. Add other reference materials, charts, ham nets, drawings, and more to complete the library! The possibilities are endless, and it's a lot of fun. Why not start on yours today?

Enjoy!



Google Play Store Apps	Google Play Store Apps (continued)	Browser Links and Widgets
• Blue Letter Bible • DVSwitch (AllStar app—turn tablet into 2 m/70 cm radio) • QSO1 AllStar/EchoLink/DMR/Fusion/M17 Android/Windows app (https://qso1.net) • VoxDMR (Android DMR radio app) • DroidStar (DMR phone/tablet app—beta development, some bugs) • DMR User Database (lookup contact radio IDs by callsign) • APRSDROID • Peanut (D-STAR communication app) • EchoLink (EchoLink communication app) • RepeaterBook (repeaters by location app) • Meshtastic (mesh communications app) • WOAD (Winlink on Android Device)—\$8.99 • Rattlegram (send and receive text via radio) • World Radio League (contact logging) • Ham Bands (ARRL ham bands) • Sound Recorder • Startpage (privacy browser) • DuckDuckGo (privacy browser) • Ham Alert (callsign activity) • Ham2K (contact logging) • HamRadio 1.2 (grid-square locator and propagation) • Ham Solar (solar band status) • SDR Touch (app for SDR dongle) • SSTV Encoder (send and receive images)	• HamClock (portable-operations time/date/etc.) • magicJack (phone/text app—paid) • Morse Expert (automatically decodes CW to text) • Spectroid Audio Analyzer (audio spectrum graphing) • Dipole Calculator (antenna calculator) • Cantennator (antenna calculator) • Antenna Tool • Amateur Radio Toolkit • Scanner Radio (police scanner) • LibreOffice Viewer (Microsoft Office file viewer) • what3words (map location/coordinates) • Notepad • Pinterest (indexing/filing app; example: @JoesJourney7) • WREG Weather • Calculator • PDF Reader • PENUP (drawing app) • Pluto TV (free TV app) • SW Radio Schedule • Walkie Toolkit for Baofeng—\$5.49 • White Pages • Reverse Lookup: Phone Search • World Radios (international radio stations) • Zello PTT Walkie Talkie	Browser Internet Links • Delta Amateur Radio Club (https://deltaclub.org) • SPARKS Newsletters (https://deltaclub.org/sparks-newsletter) • HoseLine DMR Radio Listening (https://hose.brandmeister.network) • TalkPod APK Communication App (https://zmr.qodaddysites.com) • APRS Tracking Information (https://aprs.fi) • DigiQSL—QSL Cards (https://www.digiqsl.com) • Winlink Email (https://www.winlink.org) • RadioID (https://www.radioid.net)—radio ID required for DMR, D-STAR, etc. • RadioReference (https://forums.radioreference.com/) • World Time (https://time.is) Widgets • Clock—Digital • Notepad • WREG Channel 3 • NOAA Weather • Weawow (weather widget app)

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 38134-2768

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					
August 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026					
SUMMARY					
Beginning Balance	\$26,978.33	Minimum Daily Balance	\$26,449		
Deposits & Credits	\$2,880.01 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$27,287		
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -				
Fees	\$0.00 -				
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +				
Checks	\$3,408.75 -				
Ending Balance	\$26,449.59				
DEPOSITS & CREDITS					
08/03	Deposit - Thank You			25.00	
08/03	Deposit - Thank You			100.00	
08/05	Square Inc Sq260805 Delta Amateur			120.57	
08/10	Square Inc Sq260810 Delta Amateur			20.01	
08/12	Deposit - Thank You			100.00	
08/14	Deposit - Thank You			120.00	
08/19	Square Inc Sq260819 Delta Amateur			120.57	
08/25	Square Inc Sq260825 Delta Amateur			40.02	
08/25	Deposit - Thank You			190.00	
08/25	Deposit - Thank You			2,019.00	
08/26	Square Inc Sq260826 Delta Amateur			24.84	
Total Deposits & Credits				\$2,880.01	
CHECKS					
Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
08/27	1696	2,575.00	08/24	1699	294.72
08/26	1698 *	95.03	08/24	1700	444.00
Total Checks				\$3,408.75	
* Break in Check Number Sequence.					

Applications Received - August 2026		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(3) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$60.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Family		\$25.00

(2) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$40.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(1) Donations Received		\$5.00
	Total Dues Received	\$130.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Mem - Family (\$20.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$2,019.00
Huntsville - Bus Fares (net of \$125 tip for Driver)		\$730.00
Square Surcharge Received		\$14.00
Square Fees		(\$12.99)
	Total Other Deposits	\$2,750.01
	Total Deposits	\$2,880.01
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Ch#1696 - Cline Tours - Bus Rental		\$2,575.00
Ch#1697 - Void		\$0.00
Ch#1698 - Josh Cunningham - Meeting refreshments		\$95.03
Ch#1699 - Denver's - Huntsville Snacks		\$294.72
Ch#1700 - Huntsville Hamfest - Admission		\$444.00
Ch#1701 - Joe Lowenthal - Huntsville refreshments (\$90.02 pending)		\$0.00
	Total Payments	\$3,408.75

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	INTEREST RATE	YTD INTEREST	INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID
\$5,753.95	3.680 %	\$156.20	\$5.81
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$53.12	\$227.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	8/22/2026	9/21/2026	
Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	INTEREST RATE	YTD INTEREST	INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID
\$12,238.56	2.960 %	\$267.96	\$40.76
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$89.98	\$448.45	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	7/22/2026	5/22/2027	
▲ Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - September 1, 2026

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

Absent: Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV.

Guests: None.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on September 1, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Joe Plunk announced that John Reiners, KN4BVH, resigned from the position of Club Historian. Joe reluctantly accepted John's resignation.

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joe Plunk thanked Joe Lowenthal for all of the effort and energy he gave to the Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip this year. The BOD echoed Joe Plunk's sentiment.

Joe Plunk asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Secretary's Minutes, which were circulated by email. There were none. There was a consensus that the minutes should be presented to the membership for their approval.

Paul Broom presented the membership applications that were received since the August BOD meeting. Johnathan Urschel made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the September Treasurer's Report, covering transactions for the month of August.

Paul said that the CD ending in *8481 earned \$53.12 in interest during the month of August. The CD matures on September 21st.

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

There was a discussion about bills that were expected to be presented during the month of September.

Director of Programs Adam White discussed the topics for Ham 101 and the September Membership Meeting.

Joe Plunk said that the Expo Hamfest Committee did not have a report. Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, is working on getting the date for the 2027 Expo firmed up with Agricenter International.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to get their Sparks articles to Johnathan Urschel as soon as possible.

Joe said that DARC will be participating in two events on October 17th: The Bartlett Fire Department Pancake Breakfast and the Bluff City Blues Ride.

Joe said that it was time to start thinking about the door prizes for the November meeting. Johnathan Urschel agreed to coordinate the prizes again this year. Joe asked everyone to send their prize ideas to Johnathan.

There was a discussion about the 146.82 tower climb.

Adam White said that Talley Communications in Kansas City only had one VHF and one UHF antenna available. DARC will get the second VHF antenna from Santa Fe Distributing.

There was a discussion about the trip to Kansas City, available vehicles and available trailers.

Joe Plunk said that the tower climbers have no backlog.

There was a discussion about the coax to be used for the jumpers on the tower. There is some coax at the Brunswick repeater site, and some additional coax has been donated to the club. It was agreed that the tower climbers should be asked for their opinion about the coax that should be used.

Joe Plunk said that would be great to have the tower climb completed before the fall storm season.

Adam White said that there has not been any news about the grant application with the ARRL Foundation.

Joe Plunk said the BOD may want to deposit the proceeds from the CD *8481 into the club's checking account, pending the outcome of the grant application. Paul Broom said that the bank offered a 10-day grace period for rolling over the CD.

There was a consensus that the proceeds of the CD should be deposited into the checking account, and held there pending word on the grant application.

Joe Lowenthal shared some information about the Bus Trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. He said that 41 people paid for the trip and 38 rode the bus. Danver's arrived early with the biscuits, and the bus was able to leave on time. The trip went smoothly. DARC sold \$2,019 worth of equipment at the show.

Joe Lowenthal said that he is no longer able to store the estate sale equipment at his home. Don Strahl, KZ4GJ, is helping to find suitable storage space.

Joe Lowenthal said he attended an ARRL Forum at the Huntsville Hamfest. One of the topics discussed was moving the Alabama Section from the ARRL Southeastern Division to the Delta Division. Joe said he supported the move.

Joe Lowenthal said the ARRL has created a survey, where members from the Delta Division and the Southeastern Division can express their opinions on the move. All ARRL members living in those Divisions should have already received an email with a link to the survey. Joe said to log in to the ARRL website before clicking the survey link in the email.

Joe Plunk said that former DARC President Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, applied for her students at Covington High School to make an ARISS contact with the crew aboard the International Space Station. Her application was granted. The contact will likely be scheduled for January-March, 2027.

Once the date has been set, DARC will be asked to support the contact with equipment, batteries and expertise.

Joe Plunk said he was looking forward to an exciting ending of 2026 for DARC.

Joe also said that he was talking with individual BOD members, to gauge their interest in serving next year.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that six students from the recent Technician Class License Class have tested, and all received their licenses. Two students still need to test.

Joe Lowenthal said that he and Jim Greer, W4JBG, taught the Tech class using Ham Radio Prep (HRP) as the course material. Joe said that he and Jim had mixed feelings about how everything went. He thought that HRP did not give good explanations about some of the material, and they were looking at possible ways to bridge that gap in upcoming license classes.

Joe Lowenthal said that a General Class License Class may begin around the beginning of November, if a minimum of 6 students are interested.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that AllStarLink is not working at the 146.625 repeater site in Germantown. He has rebooted the system, but it is still not connecting to the service. Dan plans on replacing the hardware, but he says that there is limited access to the building where the equipment is housed. He will have to coordinate his site visit with officials approved by the Department of Homeland Security.

Dan said he is also working on setting up a VPN at the 443.700 DMR repeater site.

There was a discussion about a club member who may be interested in serving as Club Historian.

Joe Plunk said that there will be at least one vacancy to fill on the BOD for next year. A new Director of Programs will be needed. Joe asked everyone to send him the names of good people who might be willing to serve on the BOD.

Adam White said that the ARRL Foundation did not make a decision on their 2025 grant applications until November or December of last year. There was a discussion about whether an ARRL grant could be used to reimburse DARC for costs associated with the 146.82 tower climb.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:22pm.

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

The August 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 11th at First Evangelical Church (First Evan). The Vice President served as the chair and the Secretary was present. Club Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. There were 33 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

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

Vice President Tyler Henley welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and to name their favorite food.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, moved to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in Sparks. There was a second by Jim Greer, W4JBG. The motion passed without opposition.

Tyler Henley asked if any BOD Members had announcements.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said the Technician Class License Class had their testing session last night. Six students tested and they all earned their Tech licenses. Joe expects two more students from the class to test soon.

Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel said that he is starting to use Ham Club Online (HCO), an amateur radio club management software suite. Among other things, DARC will use HCO to manage the membership email list and to publish the Sparks newsletter. Johnathan is in the process of getting the BOD members added to the system. He will be sending emails to the club membership after that. Johnathan asked everyone to please respond to their emails.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that he and his team are in the process of getting the equipment and materials together for the 146.82 tower climb. In a few weeks, they will make a trip to Kansas City to pick up the three antennas. Don Strahl, KZ4GJ, will be using his truck and trailer. Dan said that the tower climbers do not have much of a backlog, and would only need a short time to schedule our climb.

Dan also said that the 146.625 repeater in Germantown may have lost its connection to AllStarLink. He plans to reset the device, and may make a site visit. Dan said he was also working on setting up a VPN at the 443.700 DMR site, through ARDC.

Joe Lowenthal announced that DARC received a new equipment donation. Joe offered some of the equipment for sale at the meeting.

Tyler Henley said that the 146.82 repeater is very well known, and many hams that travel through Memphis will try and hit it. Tyler thanked the membership for their support of the 146.82 repeater over the years.

Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, gave a presentation entitled "ARRL Teacher Institute Workshop: Space Communications."

Mary Jean teaches Agriculture, Mechatronics and Agriscience at Covington High School. She received a grant to travel to ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT this July for the program.

Mary Jean discussed the lectures, hands-on activities and demonstrations that she and her classmates enjoyed during the workshop. She also talked about her trip to the Northeast, and her opportunity to operate at station W1AW. Mary Jean showed photos from her trip, as well as equipment she was given to bring back to her classroom.

Mary Jean said that an amateur radio license is now a recognized Industry Credential in Tennessee, and several of her students are interested in becoming licensed. Mary Jean also said that her students have been selected by ARISS to talk to the crewmembers on board the International Space Station. She will be reaching out to Nashoba ARC and DARC for their assistance with the contact.

Mary Jean said that donations to the ARRL Education and Technology Fund made her trip possible. She encouraged everyone who would like to support these efforts to donate to the Fund.

There being no further business, Vice President Tyler Henley said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Dr. Randy Redd, KQ4HJH, made the motion, which was seconded by Jose Ibarra, KJ4TCJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice President Tyler Henley adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at First Evangelical Church, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Secretary

Delta Ham License Training, 2026

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Training

By Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Training

CLASS AND EXAM INFORMATION

There is no charge for classes, but students are responsible for purchasing the license manual and paying the \$15 ARRL VEC examination fee. The FCC implemented a separate \$35 application fee on April 19, 2022.

To request a class, email Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com with the class name—Technician, General, or Extra—in the subject line. Include your name, callsign if you have one, email address, and cellphone number in the message.

LICENSES EARNED IN 2026 FROM DELTA CLASSES

4 Technician
1 General
4 Extra

FCC FEES AND CURRENT LICENSE MANUALS

The \$35 FCC application fee applies to new licenses, renewals, vanity callsigns, and similar applications, but not to license upgrades, systematic callsign issuance, or name, address, and email changes. This fee is separate from the \$15 ARRL VEC examination fee.

The Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual is the Sixth Edition and uses the question pool effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030.

The current ARRL General Class License Manual is the Tenth Edition and uses the question pool effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Thirteenth Edition and uses the question pool effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028.

Expired General and Extra Class license holders may regain their former operating privileges by passing the current Technician examination and providing proof of their previous license class. A former Advanced Class licensee may regain General Class privileges.

PROPOSED CLASSES

All classes will be 3¼ to 4 hours long for six or seven sessions—one per week on a weeknight from 6:15–9:30 p.m. or on a Saturday from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

If interested in a class, email wa4ovo@gmail.com with Technician, General, or Extra Class in the subject line. Include your name, email address, and cellphone number in the message.

The next Extra license class will probably begin in early January 2027.

The next Technician license class will probably begin in late February 2027.

General Class 4-26 — October 29–December 10, 2026

The proposed General class will meet on six Thursday nights from 7:00–9:00 p.m. on October 29; November 5, 12, and 19; and December 3 and 10, provided at least six students register. Students will watch Ham Radio Prep videos during the week and attend question-and-answer sessions. The fee is \$30.

To register, email wa4ovo@gmail.com with "General Class" in the subject line and include your name, callsign, email address, and cellphone number.

CURRENT CLASSES

None.

PREVIOUS CLASSES

Technician Class 3-26 — July 13–August 17, 2026

This Technician license class met on six Monday nights. A new format used Ham Radio Prep videos that students watched during the week, followed by question-and-answer sessions with Elmers. The class fee was \$30, paid in person or through the Delta Club Square site at <https://delta-amateur-radio-club.square.site/>.

The first class included a local introduction and the first three Ham Radio Prep lessons. The first four meetings were held July 13, 20, and 27 and August 3 from 7:00–9:00 p.m. The instructors and Elmers were Jim W4JBG and Joe WA4OVO.



First class for Technician Class 3-26



Satellite demonstration by Rick WA4NVM

The fifth meeting on August 10 provided a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC Technician examination. Six students took the examination. Congratulations to Ed Dixon, KR4OJZ; Shane Greer, KR4OIM; James Jones, KR4OIN; Joshua Miser, KR4OHV; Makoa Pereira, KR4OJB; and Laura Steward, KR4OIT, on earning their Technician licenses.

The Laurel VE Team members for the examinations were Jim W4JBG, Perry N4GJ, Jeff AJ4GY, Don KZ4GJ, and Joe WA4OVO.

The sixth meeting on August 17 featured equipment demonstrations: repeater basics by Joe WA4OVO; APRS by Rick KJ4NWQ; satellites by Rick WA4NVM; digital basics—D-STAR, Fusion, and DMR—by John KN4BVH; and EchoLink by Joe WA4OVO. The meeting was held at First Evangelical Church.

Tech Class 2-26 — February 23–April 20, 2026

A Technician license class was held on six Monday nights: February 23; March 2, 16, 23, and 30; and April 20. The first four classes were held by Zoom, while the fifth and sixth were in person. The fifth class reviewed the 399-question pool and provided an opportunity to take the FCC examination. Thirteen students attended the first class, and four completed the course.

Congratulations to Rebecca KR4KNE, now N4BEX, who earned Technician and General at the Delta Club test session on March 10. Congratulations also to Dylan KR4LCK, Perry KJ4PJE, and Laura KJ5PJG on earning their Technician licenses.

The instructors were Bobby KD5BS, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Paul KA4X, Don KZ4GJ, and Joe WA4OVO.



Rick WA4NVM on a satellite contact with Patrick WD9EWK on SO-50



Rick KJ4NWQ presenting APRS

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

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

An Extra Class license course was held by Zoom on five Saturdays: January 3, 10, and 31 and February 7 and 14. There were no classes January 17 and 24 so students and presenters could participate in Swamp Stompers and Winter Field Day. Ten students started the class, and six completed it.

Students included Gary KC1OXM, Michael KQ4QLJ, Tim KQ4FBF, Larry KQ4DFU, Barry KC4SVR, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Raul, Jim KC1VAS, William KQ4UEO, Barbara WA5CFB, and Johnathan KO4WAQ. Instructors were Don KZ4GJ, David KY4FH, Josh KQ4IOS, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH, and Joe WA4OVO.

Congratulations to Larry KQ4DFU, who passed his Extra examination at the January 13 Delta Club test session; Johnathan KO4WAQ and Rajesh KR4CPZ, now NA4AH, who upgraded at the February 21 session at Germantown Fire Station No. 4; and Jim KC1VAS, who upgraded March 7 at a Port City ARC test session.

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

An in-person General license class was held on five Monday nights: November 3, 17, and 24 and December 1 and 8 from 6:15–9:30 p.m. The fifth class provided an opportunity to take the FCC examination. Classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

Eight students started the class, and six upgraded to General: John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ, and Danny KR4CVH.



John KN4BVH on Safety



Carolyn KX4QF on Antennas



Paul KY4MX on Rules & Regulations



Randall KY4MY on Equipment

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 provided the December 8 FCC test 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 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 the center of the 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 membership includes digital access to QST, On the Air, QEX, and National Contest Journal, plus access to the ARRL Technical Information Service and other member resources. Visit www.arrl.org/join/WE1 or call 1-888-277-5289 in the United States (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. ET); international members may call 860-594-0338.

Coming soon: ARRL is creating a new online membership form that will let new and renewing members select a participating affiliated club to receive commission credit. The club commission will be \$20 for new members and \$10 for renewals.

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

2026 Board of Directors

President Joe Plunk, NS4E

president@deltaclub.org
joe.plunk@access-tech.com
901-491-2755

Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

vicepresident@deltaclub.org
901-827-5859

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ

secretary@deltaclub.org
901-626-2279

Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX

treasurer@deltaclub.org
901-517-1490

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

wa4ovo@gmail.com
901-628-4318

Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ

publications@deltaclub.org
901-409-3682

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB

programs@deltaclub.org
817-201-3857

Director of Meetings & Special Events Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS

joshcham90@yahoo.com
901-679-9303

Public Information Officer OPEN

Immediate Past President VACANT

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF

trustee@deltaclub.org
901-491-3192

Club Historian VACANT

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

September–December 2026

Date	Time	Event / Location
September 8	7:00–9:00 p.m.	DARC Membership Meeting — First Evangelical Church
September 21		Small Business CD *8481 matures
October 6	6:30 p.m.	DARC Board of Directors Meeting — Zoom
October 17		Bartlett Fire Department Pancake Breakfast
October 17		Bluff City Blues Ride communications support
October 29	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26
November 5	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26
November 12	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26
November 19	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26
December 3	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26
December 10	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Proposed General Class 4-26

For additional events, visit <https://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
Drive Time Chatter	146.850	-600hz no PL tone	6:30am-7:45am and 4:45pm-5:45pm	Daily
Drive Time Chatter	443.200	+5MHz, +(107.2)	6:30am-7:45am and 4:45pm-5:45pm	Daily
Elmer Net	147.030	+ (107.2)	7:00p	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		9:00pm	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

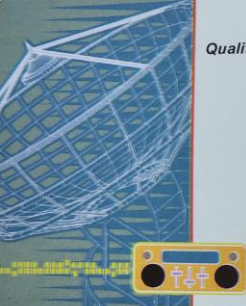
TENNESSEE HF NETS

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 (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7.180		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
Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field
John Kalotai, N1OLO
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 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 First Evangelical Church, West
 Entrance, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd**



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