

# SPARKS

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P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 120 \* January 2026

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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, January 13th, 2026.

### NEW LOCATION INFO!

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.deltacub.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 the E234 room.

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
  - Show and Tell – Bring your Christmas bounty
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
  - Part One – Keyboard to Keyboard Modes JS8Call RTTY and others
  - Part Two – Club Business, ARRL 250 WAS Contest and Winter Field Day

**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!

### 2025 Ham of the Year – Don Strahl KZ4GJ



### 2025 New Ham of the Year – Clement Oigbokie KQ4TQV



### 1st Annual Mid-South Amateur Radio Expo?

We are making progress on the 1st Annual Mid-South Amateur Radio Expo, but still have a lot to do.

For one thing, we need to decide if this will be the name. This seems to be something several people have liked, but we need to make a final decision so we can move forward. Another big decision we need to make is if we will offer concessions and if so what and how. Our location at the Agricenter does not have a kitchen like MARA had at the Bartlett location, but it has been pointed out that concession sales could be a source of revenue. We have set aside time at the

January membership meeting to discuss the Expo and I feel that these are the main topics that need to be addressed. Once these are finalized the next things we need to work on are a logo we can use on the Agricenter billboards and other advertising. We also need to work on a website for the event. I see us using Facebook and that is easy to set up, but we will need a web presence that is more accessible to the general public but also easy to update as the event evolves. I will be at the January Member Meeting; but if you would like to contact me to discuss before the meeting, I can be reached at [hamfestchair@deltacub.org](mailto:hamfestchair@deltacub.org) or 901-218-6385.  
Steve Frazier  
KK4VPT

## **Delta Club Training**

### **Tech Class 2-26 – February 23 – April 6, 2026**

A Technician license class is being planned for six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 if there are 10 students registered for the class. The classes will be via Zoom except for the 5th class which is an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There is no class on March 9th. If interested, send an email with Subject: Tech Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text to [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com).

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 6th 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.

# News and Articles for our Membership

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

January is here. Many people use the first month of the new year to set goals for the new, upcoming year. I would encourage you, our membership, to help us as a club work towards some of our goals. We have a fun activity packed year planned this year. We have new activities planned, please make sure to read Sparks, review the past meetings and board meetings on our YouTube channel or ask questions on the nightly information net on the 146.820 repeater. Phone calls are also a great option. Please feel free to call, the phone is always on.

2026 is shaping up to be an exciting year. We have many new plans and lots of old activities that are available to enjoy our hobby. I am most excited about the Expo this year in April. The membership approved evolving FreeFest into a new event. This year the event will be at the AgriCenter International. It is going to be on the same date as FreeFest would have been so no need to change your calendars! We do need members to reach out and fill volunteer positions. 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@deltacub.org](mailto:hamfestchair@deltacub.org). Steve also has an article with more information in this edition of Sparks.

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 North American QSO Party, SSB: 1800Z, Jan 17 to 0559Z, Jan 18, as well as 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. If you would like some help with either of these January events, please ask. I, or others, will be glad to assist.

I am looking forward to this next year. Based on the fantastic 2025 I cannot wait to see what unfolds for the club in 2026. 2026 brings a renewed focus from the ARRL as the year of the club. With this focus, I would hope that you would share our club with other people and ask them to join us. I believe that our dues offer tremendous value for the small amount being asked for to join us.

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

The first Ham 101 of the New Year is your chance to show off your haul from the holidays. Bring in your new toy(s), whether you gifted them to yourself or not, and explain what you like about it in a few minutes.

Our main program will be about keyboard-to-keyboard ham radio modes. These are the digital modes people forget about, and they are evolving rapidly but also have a long history. RTTY, PSK, PACTOR, ARDOP, JS8, Vara, Feldhell, OLIVIA. If these words baffle you, or you've heard of them but don't understand how they work, this presentation is for you. There is more to digital than DMR and FT8.

Winter Field Day will be Jan. 24-25 at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. The renovations to the campground are complete so instead of a cabin we will be there. Everyone is invited to come for one or both days or camp overnight, either RV or tent. Set up will begin Friday afternoon and the event will begin at 10 am Saturday. There will be plenty of spare transceivers so those making a day trip won't need to bring gear unless they choose to. There is water onsite but come self-sufficient with any food you want while visiting. This winter has been mild so far so I'm hoping that continues and looking forward to a good event. Reach out to me if you plan to camp so I can add you to the group email.

[Link to our location on Google Maps](#)

**Repeater Trustee's Corner**  
Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

We conducted a lot of testing recently and it appears as if we will need to do the climb that I discussed last month. I am currently in the process of putting together the plan and pricing for that climb. There are several things we need to review to make sure we get the most done during this climb for the expense. We will have more updates next month

Dan  
AA4DF

**Swamp Stompers**  
Submitted by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

We still have opportunities available for you to join us at the 2026 Swamp Stomper event in Shelby Forest on Saturday January 17. We have volunteers who have worked on this in the past who are helping again this year but could use some more people to join them to give us additional coverage at each location. The run starts at 7:30am but we meet for a quick breakfast



at the General Store at 6am. The run is over by 4pm, but if you need to leave early, we can meet your needs. This is a unique chance to use your Tech license and skills for more than checking into the nightly net. Here is the run's website for more information

- <https://ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?did=130641>

I will be at the club meeting on Tuesday before the run or feel free to contact me at [sfrazier1@bellsouth.net](mailto:sfrazier1@bellsouth.net) or 901-218-6385.

Steve Frazier

KK4VPT

## Potluck 2025

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

The Delta Club December Meeting was a Potluck dinner. The club furnished two spiral-cut hams and members brought the rest.



## Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

LOG4OM is a logging program for amateur radio. The program allows you to enter a callsign of the worked station. RST information can be entered. The start and end times are recorded. A place is provided on the program for the band you are on, mode, and country of the contact. Grid square and frequency information can be put in contact. The program has a massive collection of features to make contact logging easier. On the website they have the user manual in several languages. The English manual is almost 300 pages long. The program is free to download and if you want to make a donation you can. They have a windows version you install or a portable version you can download and run. I am still finding new features this program offers. If you are looking for a logging program you can check out LOG4OM. The website for information and downloading is <https://www.log4om.com/welcome/>

LOG4OM 2 [Profile: IW3HMH] [Solar data info K: 0 A: 4 Sfi: 75 Sunspot: 18]

File Connect Contest View Utilities Settings Help

RX TX **0000FFL1nE** 000000000000 RX TX 1

**IW3HMH**  S 59 R 59 Start 27/01/2020 19:25:16 End 27/01/2020 19:25:16

Daniele Pistollato Grid **JN65eo**

Band 80m Mode LSB Country Italy

ITU 28 CQ 15 248 

Comment Note

[LOTW USER]  
[EQSL USER]  
[QSL BUREAU]  
[QSL DIRECT]  
[HAMQTH]

Freq 0 000 RX Freq 0 000 RX Band 80m

Main (F6) Recent QSO's (F7) Cluster (F8) Propagation (F9) Worked before (F10)

James Butler  
KB4LJV

## Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

One company selling kit and assembled amateur radios and accessories is Midnight Design Solutions. They keep coming up with new projects and designs for amateurs. Their premier radio is the SDR cube which is a kit or assembled. They also sell a QRP tuner, GPS based clock, and a keyer circuit for your paddles. The company has several retro transceiver kits designed by Dave Benson K1SWL. They have other kits coming online in the future. If you are looking for QRP radios and accessories check out what they have. The web address is <https://midnightdesignsolutions.com/>



**SDR Cube Transceiver**  
Portable Software Defined Radio ... no PC required!



**SDR Cube Transceiver**  
Portable Software Defined Radio ... no PC required!



**Rainbow Tuner**  
Colorful SWR display with EFHW tuner



**Midnight Precision Clock**  
GPS-based clock provides precise and accurate display of time, temperature, altitude, barometric pressure, maidenhead location and timing signals; 1 Hz to 10 MHz.  
(Returning by Christmas 2024!)



**Midnight Ultimate Keyer**  
A full-featured electronic keyer with unprecedented capabilities



**DDS-60 Daughtercard**  
High-quality 1-60 MHz signal generator. Option for RoHS-compliance.

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 29, 2025 through December 31, 2025

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$15,593.89	Minimum Daily Balance	\$12,877
Deposits & Credits	\$350.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$14,789
Withdrawals	\$200.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$2,775.95 -		
Ending Balance	\$12,967.94		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

12/15	Deposit - Thank You	260.00
12/29	Deposit - Thank You	85.00
12/30	Deposit - Thank You	5.00
	Total Deposits & Credits	\$350.00

WITHDRAWALS

12/09	Rsc Insurance Br Risk-Strat Robert Broom	M121373547463	200.00
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CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
12/23	1675	2,640.00	12/11	1676	135.95
				Total Checks	\$2,775.95

\* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY


Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
12/09	15,393.89	12/15	15,517.94	12/29	12,962.94
12/11	15,257.94	12/23	12,877.94	12/30	12,967.94

<b>Applications Received - December 2025</b>		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$20.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Family		\$25.00
(15) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$300.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	<b>Total Dues Received</b>	<b>\$345.00</b>
<b>Other Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(1) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$5.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$0.00
	<b>Total Other Deposits</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals &amp; Debits</b>		
Risk Strategies Co - Club Liability		\$200.00
	<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Checks</b>		
Check #1673 - Dan Fleek - Allstar node parts (\$203.13 outstanding)		\$0.00
Check #1674 - Joe Plunk - Web hosting fee (\$171.09 outstanding)		\$0.00
Check #1675 - Agricenter International - Hamfest facility rental		\$2,640.00
Check #1676 - Josh Cunningham - Refreshments		\$135.95
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$2,775.95</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 %	\$0.00	\$24.88
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$51.68	\$227.01	
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 %	\$0.00	\$73.02
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u> *8503			
ISSUE DATE 10/28/2022	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID \$324.31	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST \$448.45	
ISSUE VALUE \$11,000.00	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID 10/22/2025	MATURITY DATE 5/22/2027	
 Hide More Details			

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

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes January 6, 2026

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - January 6, 2026

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: Hamfest Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on January 6, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

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

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked everyone for their service to the club and the hobby.

Joe Plunk asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Secretary's Minutes, which were circulated by email. There were none. Joe Plunk asked the BOD for a vote on submitting the minutes to the membership. There were no objections.

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

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the January Treasurer's Report, covering the transactions for the month of December. Paul also reported that the club's certificates of deposit accrued interest during the month.

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

Joe Plunk asked if any additional bills were expected in January. No BOD members were aware of any additional bills.

Joe Plunk announced that the January DARC Membership Meeting will be held at First Evangelical Church (First Evan), 735 Ridge Lake Blvd.

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



Joe Plunk said that First Evan and the new Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary campus in Arlington are willing to host the DARC membership meetings this year. Another BOD member said that his church may also be a possible meeting location. Joe said the options will be presented to the membership at the January meeting. The membership will need to decide on a meeting location.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek reported that the 443.200 repeater has quit working, and will need to be repaired or replaced. The repeater is approximately 14-15 years old.

There was a discussion about the possibility of filing a claim on the club's insurance policy, buying repeaters on ebay to use as spare parts, or buying a replacement repeater for the University of Memphis site. It may be possible to offset some of the costs with an equipment grant through the ARRL.

There was a discussion about different models and brands of repeaters - their costs and reliability.

Dan Fleek also said that the Repeater Committee made a visit to the 146.82 repeater site in Brunswick. Working duplexers were swapped with the ones at the site, and the noise problems did not improve. A scan with a network analyzer did not reveal any coax problems.

Dan said the 443.700 antenna is also leaning.

The Repeater Committee believes a tower climb at the Brunswick site is necessary. The Committee will prepare a proposal for the membership and get pricing on antennas, jumpers and fittings. Dan said he would recommend that testing and the installation of new antennas, jumpers and fittings all be done during the same climb. He said that making several climbs to evaluate and replace individual components would not be a good use of money. Much of the components are already very old, and are at or near the end of their expected service life.

Joe Plunk said that he spoke with Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, about the progress of the Bylaws Committee. Mary Jean has identified some specific areas of the Bylaws which need to be corrected, added or changed. Mary Jean will be inviting several DARC members to assist the Committee with that process.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that an Extra Class License Class is now meeting and the classroom sessions are being held via Zoom. There are 10 students. Joe also said that a Technician Class License Class is scheduled to begin on February 23 and run through April 6. The classroom sessions will also meet via Zoom.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented his proposed DARC budget for 2026. There were discussions about many budget categories, and what amount should be budgeted for each. There were also discussions about other expenses that might be added to the budget.

Joe Plunk thanked Paul for all of his hard work on the budget. Joe said the proposed budget would be approved for submission at the February BOD meeting and published in the February issue of *Sparks*. The membership will vote on the budget at the February meeting.

Hamfest Committee Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, talked about the planning and preparation he has done for the hamfest. Steve said that many hams have offered suggestions on what he should do, but they are not offering to volunteer and help. Steve said that he needs feedback from the membership about what they want for the hamfest, and he needs a lot of volunteers.

Steve used concessions as an example. He said that if the club wanted to offer concessions at the hamfest, at least 4 volunteers would be needed to plan and run the concession stand.

There were discussions about the use of the exhibit space, concessions, entry fees, door prizes, programs, vendors, offers of assistance from other clubs, advertising, using the hamfest to build club membership, etc.

Steve will continue to make reports to the BOD about the preparations for the hamfest, and the BOD will be invited to participate in any meetings and discussions that are held.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:26pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 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  
December 9, 2025

The December 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 9, 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 7:08pm. There were 39 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.

Absent: Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

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.

Joe Plunk said that Bill Hancock, WA4MJM, asked him to announce that the Fayette County ARES Net meets on the first Monday of each month at 8:15pm. The frequency is 146.940 MHz, with a PL tone of 107.2 Hz.

Joe announced that the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary (The Seminary) is moving to a new campus on Airline Road in Arlington. The Seminary has graciously offered to host the monthly DARC meetings at their new location, but the facility will not be available for the January meeting. Joe asked everyone to keep an eye

out for an announcement about the location of the January DARC meeting, which will be circulated by email. The worst-case scenario is that the January meeting will have to be held virtually.

Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, made an announcement about the hamfest which will be hosted by DARC on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Steve is interested in feedback and ideas from the club membership. Steve also reminded everyone of the Swamp Stomper race, which will be held at Shelby Forest State Park on January 17, 2026.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in *Sparks*. There was a second by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that an Extra Class License Class is scheduled to begin on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The class will meet via Zoom on 5 Saturday mornings from 9am-1pm. The 6<sup>th</sup> class will be a live testing session. Anyone interested should contact Joe Lowenthal.

Director of Programs Adam White said that he sent out a survey about Winter Field Day, which will be held on January 24-25. If anyone is interested in camping during the event, and did not receive the email, please contact Adam.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek thanked everyone for their patience regarding the noise on the 146.82 repeater. Dan said there are plans to visit the repeater site, in order to isolate the source of the noise. Working components from the Methodist North repeater site will be swapped for components at the Brunswick site, to see if the noise can be eliminated. Dan hopes to find the problems without having to spend any money. If the component swaps are not successful, a tower climb may be necessary.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to consider helping Dan with the visits to the Methodist North and Brunswick repeater sites.

Joe Plunk took a moment to recognize the members of the VE Team and the instructors at the DARC Amateur Radio License classes. Joe also recognized Joe Lowenthal for his 19 years of service as Director of Training. Joe Lowenthal's classes have resulted in over 630 new Technicians and a total of over 1,000 licenses or upgrades being earned.

Joe Plunk presented the New Ham of the Year Award to Clement Oigbokie, KQ4TQV, and the Ham of the Year Award to Don Strahl.

Dr. Randy Redd, KQ4HJH, offered a blessing for the evening's meal.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Ham Hilliard made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Josh Cunningham. The motion passed without opposition. President Joe Plunk adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Following the business portion of the meeting, the membership enjoyed DARC's Annual Holiday Potluck Meal.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at a location to be determined, or via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Perry Hayes, N4GJ  
Secretary

## **Delta Ham License Training, 2026**

**Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING**

I would like to thank the 19 instructors and Laurel VEC and ARRL VEs for providing support for the classes in 2025. The instructors and VEs were recognized at the December meeting. This year starts my twentieth year coordinating license 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

7 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 **Technician** license class will probably start on February 23, 2026.

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

The next **Extra** license class will start in early January 2027.

### **Tech Class 2-26 – February 23 – April 6, 2026**

A Technician license class is being planned for six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 if there are 10 students registered for the class. The classes will be via Zoom except for the 5<sup>th</sup> class which is an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There is no class on March 9th. If interested, send an email with Subject: Tech Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text to [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com).

## Current Classes

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

An Extra Class license class is being held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 3, 10, 31, February 7, 14 and 21. There will not be a class on January 17 and 24<sup>th</sup> to allow the students and presenters to participate in Swamp Stompers and Winter Field Day. The class will have an opportunity to take the FCC exam on the last class, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Delta Club ARRL VEC team will provide the test session.

There are 10 students in the class: Gary KC1OXM, Michael KQ4QLJ, Tim KQ4FBF, Larry KQ4DFU, Barry KC4SVR, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Raul, Jim KC1VAS, William KQ4UEO, Barbara WA5CFB and Johnathan KQ4WAQ.

The instructors are Don KZ4GJ, David KY4FH, Josh KQ4IOS, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO.

## Previous Classes

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

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

Eight students started the class. The following six students upgraded to General: John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ 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>.

## 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!

## 2026 Board of Directors

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901-491-2755

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### **Club Historian**

John Reiners, KN4BVH  
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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

<b>Name of Net</b>	<b>Frequency (MHz)</b>	<b>Offset/Tone</b>	<b>Local Time</b>	<b>Day of Week</b>
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
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		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 <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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P.O. Box 342768  
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

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



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



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