

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 124 * May 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, May 12th, 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.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 pm in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
 - Tech Support
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Part One – Battery / Solar Kit
 - Part Two – 146.82 Repeater

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!

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 22, 2026

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 22, 2025. The fare is \$100 if paid by July 1st and \$120 after July 1st. A spouse or child living at the same address can accompany a full fare rider for \$75. The fare includes the \$15 Hamfest entry ticket. There will be a breakfast biscuit sandwich, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville, during the day and whatever is left for the trip back. There are no refunds, but you can sell your seat to someone else if you cannot go. Let me know.

Cash, checks or Square processing will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay at a meeting or at Field Day. You can also send your check to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis, TN 38120. Please include your name, callsign, cell phone number, email address and whether you want ham, sausage or plain biscuit.

Reservations will be on a first come first paid basis.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, TN by 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:45pm.

Germantown Baptist Church has asked us to park in the back on the northeast side of the church so there will be security cameras on the cars.

The Huntsville Hamfest website is www.hamfest.org

Delta Club Training

Tech Class 3-26 - July 13 - August 17, 2026

The next Technician class will start on Monday nights from July 13th to August 3rd from 7:00-9:00pm. Then, from 6:15-9:30 on August 10th and 17th.

Tech Class 3-26 will be held at First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd, West Entrance if there are 10 students.

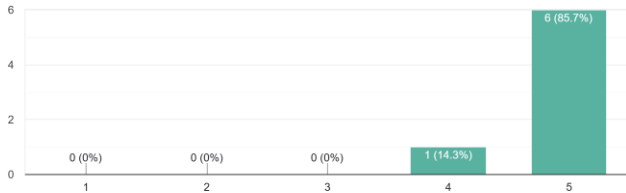
The next General license class will probably start in early November 2026.

The next Extra Class license class will probably start early January 2027.

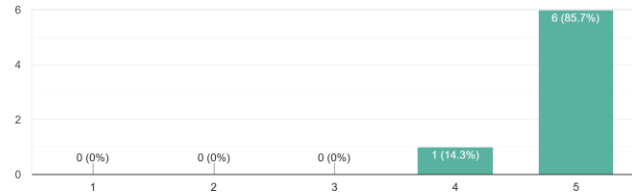
April Membership Meeting Signal Report

I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 43 people on the sign in sheet and 7 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.

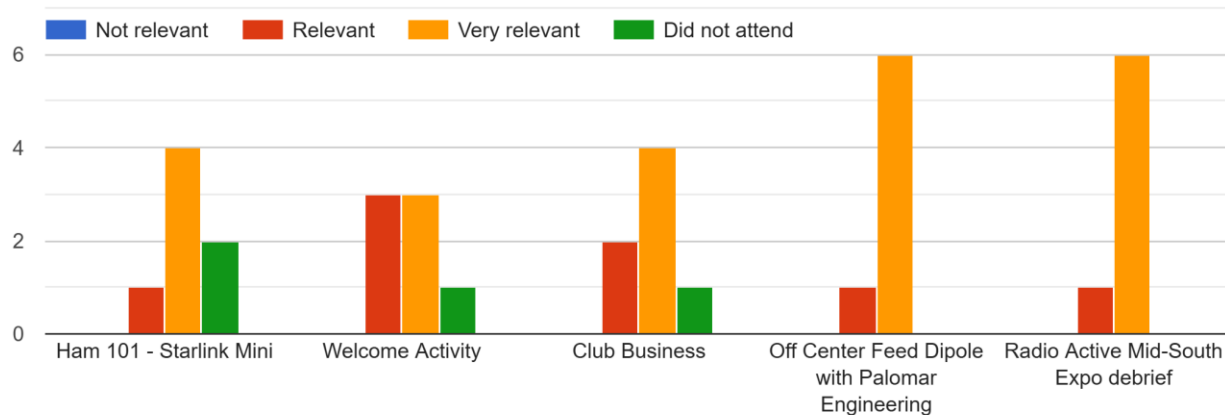
How satisfied were you with the event?
7 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

2 responses

Would like to attend some of the seminars in addition to serving.

I am always helping with VE sessions.

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

As the Amateur Radio Community across the nation approaches our annual event that we call Field Day we are reminded that the event is our time to open our hobby and show it off. This is a time when we get to introduce people to what makes our hobby fun for us. There are so many things that make our hobby fun for each of us that sometimes we can be overwhelming to someone asking about or thinking about joining the hobby.

How do we share our hobby with people but not overwhelm them? We get to work on that answer during Field Day. I would challenge each of us to remember that people and the connections that we make to them are the core of our hobby. I was out this past week in my daily work role and ran into a Delta Club life member. We had a great connection instantly. It was fantastic to hear about his 30 plus years of experience in the hobby. It was a great reminder that at the root of our hobby is a person. We strive to make a QSO to another person using radio waves in our hobby but I would also remind us to try to make a connections to people live and in person. We have many opportunities to have in person connections in our club—we have one every month at our membership meeting, not to mention all of our other activities.

I would like to ask that you please renew your membership. If you have already renewed, thank you. If you have not please come join us at the membership meeting this week and let us work with you to get your membership renewed. At twenty dollars it is a fantastic value. We have electronic payment acceptance means now, or if you prefer, bring your cash, check to the meeting and let us get your membership renewed. If you are unable to make the membership meeting and would like to renew your membership, please send us an email and we will work to get it all done electronically.

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

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

Next week I am headed to Dayton Hamvention. It is a lot of fun, and I get to hang out with my Purdue friends every year. It is a great time to meet vendors, hardware hackers, and radio experts and ask a lot of questions. It is an educational experience for me. If you can't make a Dayton trip, I highly recommend a trip to the Huntsville Hamfest in August. Take the bus so you don't have to drive or get a hotel.

Many new hams first purchase is some sort of HT. It was my first purchase and I still love HTs. We love portability as we have a device that fits in our pocket that can call anybody with voice and video and surf the internet. However, it is not a ham shack. It is just the beginning. Many hams are disappointed with an HT and give up. Start saving for the mobile or base station setup to increase your range. In addition to higher power radios, consider your test equipment. For VHF+, I highly recommend a SWR/Power meter. I would recommend this as a first RF test device. This meter answers a question that analyzers don't - what is my power output. They are very easy to use. For HF and more advanced work, the antenna analyzer is a good second purchase. I have probably talked about test gear more than once here, but many hams seem to be missing this tool and are not able to troubleshoot their shack or vehicle setup. Be a technician and get tools.

Above all, be patient. The learning does not stop after you get your license. Frustration does not solve issues. Yes, things can be difficult to set up or program. It is a technical hobby, so expect technical challenges and realize it may take a few days to figure something out. Be willing to put in the work to get the reward. AI can help, but read the manual, subscribe to forums, talk to other hams.

Dan
AA4DF

Youtube Addict

- **Radio Propagation Time of Flight Measurements**

<https://youtu.be/I9qU8pCCFQ>

- **The Gear Every Camping Ham Radio Operator Needs**

<https://youtu.be/LvSoYpOXkBY>

- **Ugly Solder Joints? This Will Fix Them Forever**

<https://youtu.be/jLn8fEWQmEw>

- **Cheap Beginner Friendly DIY HF Ham Radio Antenna No Analyzer Needed**

<https://youtu.be/tx27XOgJFr0>

Packet Update
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many amateurs work HF and try to make long distance contacts. One way to improve your chances at success is by using a world “greyline map”. The constantly changing map shows the boundary between day and night. This is called the grey zone. DX signals are better because E and F layers reflect signals better and the signal absorbing D layer is inactive.

This is a web address which contains information on the “greyline map” and how to use it for better DX.

<https://www.qsl.net/4x4xm/FAQ/What-is-Greyline-propagation.htm>

We can follow moving greyline two ways. One way is to run a “greyline program” on your computer.

This is the web address to download a standalone program for a “greyline map”.

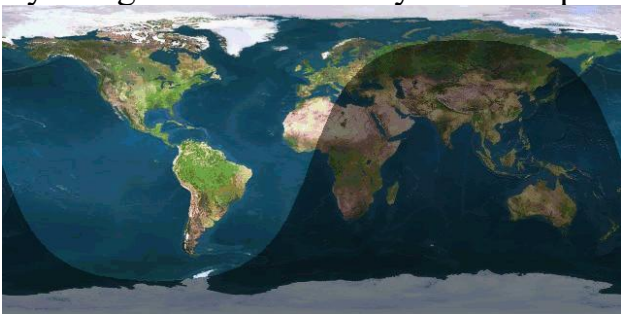
https://w3wvg.com/mgxroot/page_10735.html

Another way is to get on the internet and go to a website that constantly displays the changing map. This site updates the map every 5 minutes to keep it current.

Here is the web address for an online greyline world map.

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/greyline.html>

By using this information you can improve your chances for better DX.



James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many new radios have a built in Morse code paddle input. This is software that turns paddle presses in “DITS” and “DAHS” and allows different timing methods such as Mode iambic A, Mode iambic B, and ULTIMATIC. With two paddles it is possible to reverse paddles by simply changing the wiring; however, some software allows you to just select the reverse paddle command to do the same thing. The software also allows you to set the speed that the Morse code is sent. Some keyers have a speed dial where you just turn it for the speed you want. Other keyer circuits can adjust the speed up and down by a sequence of paddle presses. Another parameter that might be adjusted is the DAH to DIT ratio. The standard is 3 to 1 however some people change that a little for a signal that stands out. Keyers also can have a practice mode where you can adjust and practice sending Morse code without keying your transmitter. Sending the same characters over and over when calling CQ or doing a final 73 can get old when contesting. Modern keyer circuits now have memories to store short lines of code. By selecting a memory the keyer will automatically send what have stored in that memory. I have keyers with 1 or 2 memories. Newer ones may have up to 10 memories. The new keyer circuits also have a non volatile memory storage which means what you put in the memories will be there the next time you power up. You can buy keyers with just a PC board and parts you assemble. You can also buy keyers assembled with the case ready to go. You can also buy used older name brand keyers off of Ebay. I have an old MFJ keyer I bought years ago. The first keyer circuit I build was based on the 8044 keyer chip that was sold in the old days. If your radio needs a separate keyer check on Ebay. Do a search for “Morse code keyer”.



James Butler
KB4LJV

DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

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

<https://deltaclub.org/membership>

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

Delta Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38184-2768

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

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS
 April 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026

SUMMARY			
Beginning Balance	\$20,341.53	Minimum Daily Balance	\$15,592
Deposits & Credits	\$5,778.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$19,670
Withdrawals	\$209.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$4,905.39 -		
Ending Balance	\$21,005.14		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS			
04/13	Square Inc	Sq260413 Delta Amateur	155.00
04/13	Square Inc	Sq260413 Delta Amateur	529.00
04/13	Deposit - Thank You		4,954.00
04/15	Square Inc	Sq260415 Delta Amateur	20.00
04/16	Square Inc	Sq260416 Delta Amateur	20.00
04/16	Deposit - Thank You		40.00
04/28	Deposit - Thank You		60.00
Total Deposits & Credits			\$5,778.00

WITHDRAWALS			
04/13	Executive Force	Sale Delta Amateur	209.00

CHECKS					
Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
04/07	1682	2,021.70	04/06	1685	177.00
04/06	1683	1,400.00	04/15	1687 *	100.00
04/06	1684	1,150.76	04/14	1688	55.93
Total Checks					\$4,905.39

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

Applications Received - April 2026		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(17) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$340.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	Total Dues Received	\$340.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$0.00
Expo - Admissions		\$2,010.00
Expo - Table sales		\$800.00
Expo - Raffle Tickets		\$1,851.00
Expo - Concessions		\$337.00
Expo - Donations		\$440.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$5,438.00
	Total Deposits	\$5,778.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
Executive Force - Expo Security		\$209.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$209.00
Checks		
Ck#1682 - Hicks Convention Svcs - Expo tables & chairs		\$2,021.70
Ck#1683 - Paul Broom - Expo door prize (Icom 7300)		\$1,400.00
Ck#1684 - Fred Miller - Expo postcards & postage		\$1,150.76
Ck#1685 - Steve Frazier - Expo liability insurance		\$177.00
Ck#1686 - Void		\$0.00
Ck#1687 - Clark's Quick Print - Expo/DARC brochures		\$100.00
Ck#1688 - Joe Lowenthal - Expo refreshments/other		\$55.93
Ch#1681 - Joe Plunk - Club Hotspot (\$120.00 outstanding)		\$0.00
	Total Payments	\$4,905.39

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,649.91	3.680 %	\$52.16	\$40.58
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u> *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$52.16	\$227.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	2/22/2026	9/21/2026	
▲ Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$12,148.58	2.960 %	\$177.98	\$11.82
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u> *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$88.34	\$448.45	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	4/22/2026	5/22/2027	
▲ Hide More Details			

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes May 5, 2026

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - May 5, 2026

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, 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, Director of Programs, Adam White K4SPB, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: None

Guests: Billy Freeman, WL4B, Carolyn Horne, KX4QF.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on May 5, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:49pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joe said that he was pleased with the success of the Expo hamfest, and he is excited about doing it again. The feedback he received has been positive. He plans to circulate a survey to other clubs, in order to get more feedback.

Joe Plunk asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Secretary's Minutes, which were circulated by email. There were none. Adam White made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed without opposition.

Paul Broom presented the renewal membership applications that had been received since the April BOD meeting. Joe Plunk asked for a vote to accept all of the applications, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the May Treasurer's Report, covering transactions for the month of April.

Joe Plunk said that Zoom has recognized DARC as a non-profit organization. As a result, the cost of the service will be cut in half. Joe said that DARC could enjoy the savings, or add an additional license, which could be used for training.

Paul Broom said that the club's Certificate of Deposit (CD) with an account number ending in *8503 received an interest payment during the month of April.

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

There was a discussion about bills that are expected to be presented in May.

Joe Plunk said that Expo Hamfest Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, is still working with Agricenter International to reserve exhibit hall space for future hamfests.

Joe Plunk discussed the program topics for Ham 101 and the May Membership Meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that he will make a presentation about the condition of the 146.82 repeater system, and a proposed tower climb, at the May membership meeting. Based on the feedback he receives, he will present a detailed cost estimate for club approval at the June meeting. Dan said that DARC might apply for a grant from the ARRL Foundation to offset the cost of the repairs and upgrades.

Joe Plunk said that he asked Dr. George Flinn, Jr., K4EQO, for the name of the company that does Flinn Broadcasting's tower climbs. Joe would like to see if using that company would be cheaper for DARC.

Joe Plunk said that the Bylaws Committee did not have a report.

Joe asked everyone to get their *Sparks* articles to Jonathan Urschel as soon as possible this week.

There was a discussion about Field Day, which will be held June 27-28 at Germantown Municipal Park. Joe Plunk recognized Billy Freeman, WL4B, and Carolyn Horne, KX4QF, who joined the meeting as guests.

Joe Plunk said that DARC and Nashoba Amateur Radio Club (NRC) will be working together on Field Day again this year. W4BS will be the Field Day call, and W4NRC will be the call for the GOTA station. The park has been reserved and all of the permits have been secured. Joe is in an ongoing conversation with NRC President Fred Miller, KS2X, about the details.

There was a lengthy discussion about Field Day. Some of the topics discussed were: a floorplan for site setup, a band plan, an operating schedule, the number of stations, antennas and modes that will be operating, the availability of the EMA tower, wifi, internet and networked logging, screens for map displays, food, use of the Germantown Library for seminar space, the point system, and publicity in the Germantown area.

There was a consensus that DARC and NRC should operate a 4A station this year.

Carolyn Horne talked about her tent, air-conditioner, radio station, power setup and antenna that she plans to bring to Field Day.

Billy Freeman plans to present his seminar about power, which was very popular at the Expo hamfest.

Joe Plunk said that Bill Matthews, KQ4UEO, who is forming an amateur radio club in the Collierville area, has asked if that organization could participate in Field Day. There was a consensus that the Collierville group would be welcome to participate.

In other business, Joe Lowenthal said that the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest will be held on August 22nd. Joe has reserved a 56-passenger bus, and two tables at the hamfest. 35 riders will be needed for DARC to break even on the cost of the trip.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had additional announcements.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said the next Technician Class License Class will begin on July 13th. Joe said he is changing the format of the class, and will now use Ham Radio Prep (hamradioprep.com) as the

training material. The classroom portion will be an elmer session, going over the week's lessons and answering questions.

The testing session will be held on August 10th, and the class will end on August 17th. Everyone who passes the exam should have their licenses in time for the Huntsville Hamfest, which will be held August 22-23. Joe hopes that some of the students will participate in the DARC Bus Trip to the hamfest on August 22nd.

There was a discussion about discounts offered by Ham Radio Prep (HRP), allowing students to pay for HRP online through DARC's Square account, and possible scholarships for students who can't afford to pay.

Joe Plunk thanked Joe Lowenthal for the excellent DARC brochure that he created.

Treasurer Paul Broom said he was working on using Square to accept online payments. He would like to set up a web page for that, but will need some assistance with the design. There was a discussion about offering online payment options for membership renewals.

Paul Broom also said that he may reach out to Dan Fleek about some information that he needs for the equipment insurance claim.

There was a discussion about the ID on the 146.82 repeater interfering with the Delta Club Information Net. Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that a bug in the software was preventing the ID from being made at the top of the hour. The ID is now scheduled to be completed before the net begins.

Dan also said that a group in Australia had been linking to the 146.82, and other area repeaters. He is looking into a repeater software setting that would prevent such unwanted linking.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 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 - April 14, 2025

The April 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 14th at First Evangelical Church (First Evan). The President served as the chair and the Secretary was present. Club President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 43 members and visitors in attendance.

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

Absent: Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

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

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

Joe Lowenthal said that he was getting a group together to take down Pat Lane's tower. Anyone interested in helping should contact Joe.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, moved 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 without opposition.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD Members had announcements.

Vice President Tyler Henley encouraged everyone to use the club repeaters, and said how much he enjoyed the Expo hamfest.

Treasurer Paul Broom said he made it to the bank with all of the money from the Expo.

Joe Plunk thanked Paul for all of his help with the Expo hamfest.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said the current Technician Class license class will meet next Monday night, in person, for an equipment demo at 6pm. A satellite pass will occur during the demo.

Joe Lowenthal also said that the next Technician Class license class is scheduled to begin in July. Joe said he is considering changing the format of the class, using HamRadioPrep as the training material, supplemented by presentations from elmers.

Joe Lowenthal also said that the BOD had approved the hiring of a 50-passenger bus for the trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 22nd. The fare will be \$100 for those who register before July 1st, and \$120 thereafter. Additional household family members will pay \$75 each. There will need to be at least 35 riders for the trip to break even.

The bus fare includes admission to the hamfest, two biscuit sandwiches, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville, and whatever is left for the trip back. There is a bathroom and wifi available on the bus.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue in Germantown, at 6:30am. The bus will back up to the loading dock at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville. The bus will leave after the 4pm prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church at approximately 7:45-8:00pm.

Several people offered positive comments about the Huntsville Hamfest, and the bus trip.

Director of Programs Adam White reminded everyone that Field Day will be held June 27-28 at Germantown Municipal Park. This is the same location as last year. DARC will be teaming up again with Nashoba Amateur Radio Club.

Joe Plunk said that Field Day is a great opportunity for new hams to learn how to set up their equipment and antennas.

Rich Kanschat, N0KYN, announced that a company has bought the rights from MFJ to manufacture Hy-Gain and Cushcraft antennas. They will produce the antennas at a factory in Indiana.

Ham Hilliard said that he has a Hy-Gain 205BA 20-meter beam antenna that he will give away to someone who wants it.

During a break in the membership meeting, President Joe Plunk convened a Special Meeting of the BOD. There was a quorum.

Joe said that he believed it would be advantageous to go ahead and reserve exhibit space at Agricenter International for the 2027 and 2028 Expo hamfests. The hamfests will be held the second weekend in April.

Joe said that reserving the space now would prevent some other group from renting the space, and would allow DARC and vendors to start planning for those hamfests.

There was a discussion about those dates possibly falling on Easter. Joe Plunk checked, and those dates will not conflict with Easter.

There was a consensus that DARC should go ahead and reserve the exhibit space for 2027 and 2028.

Tyler Henley made a motion to authorize the reserving of the exhibit space at Agricenter International, as proposed by Joe Plunk. There was a second by Paul Broom. The motion passed without opposition.

Following the vote on the motion, Joe Plunk adjourned the Special BOD meeting.

Director of Programs Adam White introduced the evening's speaker, Bob Brehm, AK6R, of Palomar Engineers. Bob gave a presentation, via Zoom, entitled "The Magic of Off-Center Fed (OCF) Multi-Band Antennas, Coax, Noise Filters and much much more!"

Bob described the science behind Palomar's line of OCF antennas, baluns, ununs, impedance transformers, feed line chokes, and coax noise filters.

Bob said that Palomar offers a great deal of free technical information and articles on their website at:

palomar-engineers.com/ferrite-application-experts-2/RF-Detectors-c190188684

Bob said that Palomar has also made several Kurt Sterba articles available for free on their website at:

palomar-engineers.com/mlb-1-magnetic-longwire-balun

Following the presentation, there was a debrief session about the Expo hamfest, moderated by Expo Hamfest Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT. Steve and several attendees discussed things that went well at the hamfest, as well as things that could be changed, or improved.

Steve thanked all of the volunteers who made the Radio Active Mid-South Expo 2026 a great success.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to complete an Expo Signal Report and a meeting Signal Report.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Joe Lowenthal made the motion, which was seconded by Richard Martin, K4DXF. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:49pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 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

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

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

Licenses Earned in 2026 from Delta Classes

4 Technician

1 General

4 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. This manual will change on July 1, 2026.

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 General, and Extra Class license holders can get their license back by taking the current Technician exam and show proof of their previous license class. A previous Advanced Class licensee will only be able to get a General Class license.

PROPOSED CLASSES

All classes will be 3-1/4 to 4 hours long for six or seven sessions; one per week on a week night 6:15pm-9:30pm or Saturday day 9am-1pm.

If interested in a class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2026.
The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2027.

Tech Class 3-26 – July 13 – August 17, 2026

A Technician license class is being planned on six Monday nights. Need ten students registered to make it an effective class. A new format is proposed using Ham Radio Prep videos that each student will view during the week and a question and answer (Elmer) session will be on the following three Monday nights. The first class will cover a local introduction and the first two HRP lessons. The first four classes are to be on July 13, 20, 27, August 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The fifth class (August 10 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC Technician exam. The sixth class (August 17 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be equipment demonstrations on repeater basics, APRS, satellites and digital basics (DStar, Fusion, DMR, and Echolink). The location will be at First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd, West Entrance, Room A321

The student will purchase the Ham Radio Prep program through the Delta Club. There is an opportunity for a discounted price. Caution: the **Technician question pool changes July 1, 2026.**

To register for the class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject: Tech Class, and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

CURRENT CLASSES

None

PREVIOUS CLASSES

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

A Technician license class was held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 20. The first four classes were Zoom while the 5th and 6th classes were in person. The 5th class was a review of the 399 questions of the question pool and to take the FCC exam. There were 13 students in the first class. Four students completed the class. Congratulations to Rebecca KR4KNE , now N4BEX, who earned Tech and General at the Delta Club test session on March 10th. Congratulations to Dylan KR4LCK, Perry KJ4PJE and Laura KJ5PJK 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 digital basics of D-STAR, Fusion, DMR, and Echolink.

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

An Extra Class license class was held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 3, 10, 31, February 7 and 14. There was not a class on January 17 and 24th to allow the students and presenters to participate in Swamp Stompers and Winter Field Day. Ten students started the class: Gary KC1OXM, Michael KQ4QLJ, Tim KQ4FBF, Larry KQ4DFU, Barry KC4SVR, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Raul, Jim KC1VAS, William KQ4UEO, Barbara WA5CFB and Johnathan KQ4WAQ. Six students completed the class. The 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 exam at the Delta Club FCC test session on January 13th. Congratulations to Johnathan KO4WAQ and Rajesh KR4CPZ (now NA4AH) on upgrading to Extra at the in-person FCC exam on Saturday, February 21st at Germantown Fire Station #4. The Delta Club ARRL VEC team provided the FCC test session. Congratulations to Jim KC1VAS who upgraded on March 7th at his Port City ARC test session.

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

ARRL Application.pdf

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

If you are interested in joining Shelby County ARES, complete an application at <https://www.tnares.com>. Click (do not pull down) on INFORMATION on the top right of the page. Next, go to TN ARES Membership and Appointment Application Forms and then click on ARES Membership Application: FSD-98. Complete the form and click SUBMIT at the bottom of the page. You should get an acknowledgment soon after submitting

YL News

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

The YL Net is every Saturday at 8:45 pm on the 146.820 W4BS repeater, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. Each YL Net has a designated “general discussion” section, which is a great time for hams of all experience levels to discuss various topics ranging from ham radio to gardening and then some! You do not have to be a YL to check in on the YL Net - everyone is welcome!

We are looking for more YL Net Control Operators (NCOs)! You do not need to have experience calling a Net to be a YL NCO; you just need to be able to get into the repeater and read from a script. It’s a great Net to try out as being a NCO, and you would only call the YL Net about once a month. If interested, please email Mary Jean KY4FB at ky4fb.tn@gmail.com or call/text at 901.356.1475. 73!

2026 Board of Directors

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OPEN

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Sparks Newsletter and Delta Club Information

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the Delta Amateur Radio Club nor its officers assume any liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

Delta Amateur Radio Club *P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768

Please note that you must provide your name and call sign if you're requesting specific actions or personal follow-ups, and also be aware that any profane or mean-spirited comments will be unceremoniously discarded without consideration.

Delta Club Members Can Like Us/Follow Posts on Facebook!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>.

Upcoming Events

For more information go to <http://hamcalendar.com/>

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Name of Net	Frequency (MHz)	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Primary)	146.82	-(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Secondary)	443.200	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
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)	8:30p	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
Owner

456 Long Hill Avenue
Shelton, CT 06484

203-556-8700

john@hamsource.com
http://www.hamsource.com

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

DARC Meeting: Second
Tuesday of every month

at 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

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