

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 112 * May 2025



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

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W4BS

REPEATER SYSTEM

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

You are invited to attend our monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on: Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

The meeting will be held at Mid-America Theological Seminary located at 2095 Appling Rd, Memphis, TN 38016. See the Delta Club webpage at: <http://www.deltacub.org> for detailed instructions on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is available in the back of the south end of the building. The meeting will be in the Betty Howard Special Events Room.

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in Room B201**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in Room B202**
 - Tech Support
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Dual band Antenna Talk by Ed Fong, WB6IQN

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 VE testing, or FCC FRN information, please contact:

Mike Sparks, KW4RI, VE Liaison
Phone: 901-493-8338
Email: KW4RI@outlook.com

Club Announcements!

HAM 101

Ham 101 this week will be Tech Support.

Delta Club Training

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 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 the email.

There is a **Technician** license class will probably start very late June or early July.

The next **General** license class will start in November 2025

The next **Extra** license class will start January 2026.

Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip – August 16, 2025

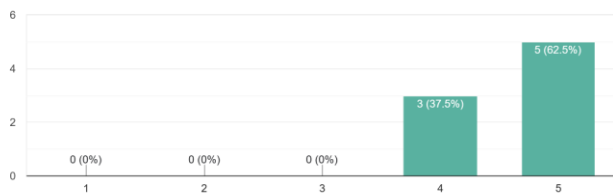
See articles below for more information.

April Membership Meeting Signal Report

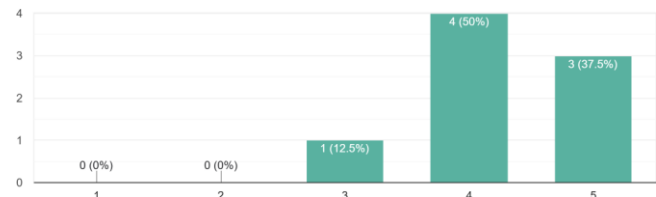
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had **48** people on the sign in sheet and **8** surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback 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.

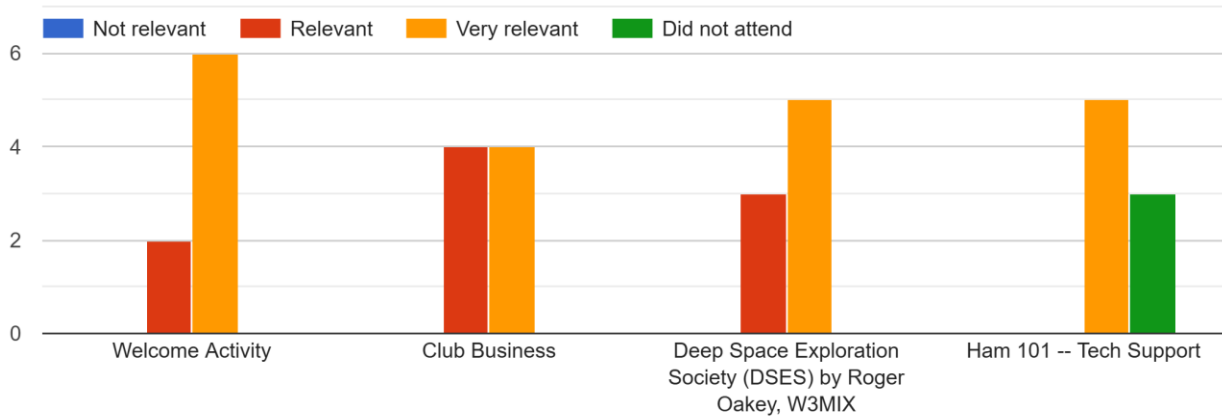
How satisfied were you with the event?
8 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

3 responses

Soldering with a simple project or circuit to practice on (maybe a wire dipole for an HF band). Practice putting on an N connector and UHF and UHF on coax.

Soldering, putting on N and UHF connectors on coax.

Continue helping with DMR and similar subjects.

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Over the past months I have had a some opportunities to interact and help some of our members. I must say that it has been a rewarding experience. It has, however, forced me to ponder how do we as members of our club help each other. How do we, as leadership in your club, facilitate our members reaching out and asking for assistance? I have assisted members with repairing coax, with building a dipole, with planning how to put up an antennae and many other items via simple conversations. Many of these connections started with the simple question, How may I help you?

Our hobby is about interacting with people. We have many, many ways in our hobby to make a contact—i.e. interact with a person. We have contacts via Morse Code, via Voice, via Text, via digital modes, and via images just to name a few of the many. Just like the various

modes that are available to us in our hobby we have many modes that we can use when we interact with our fellow hobbyist in person.

The challenge that I have seen in most of my interactions has been realizing that someone needs assistance and then being willing to go assist them! It has really made me aware of the importance of an Elmer (or mentor). It has also made me aware that our club is more than meetings, repeaters, and activities. Our club is people! More specifically, the connections that people make to other people! Just like making contacts and connecting to someone that is on the other end of a radio wave our club is about making those connections on the other end of a friendship.

As we come into the summer months, our club has some really fun activities coming up that give us some great opportunities to connect with people and build friendships. We have the annual ARRL Field Day coming up on June 28-29, 2025 from 1:00 PM CDT (18:00 UTC) Saturday to 1:00 PM CDT (18:00 UTC) Sunday. This event will be in the Germantown Municipal Park at the Kiwanis Gazebo with multiple stations located in and around the park. Bring your outdoor chair and join us for an evening meal, come run the Get on the Air (GOTA) station and watch people have their first experience with our hobby or come enjoy one of my favorite activities: talking to people and really getting to know them into the early morning hours of the day. Field Day has something for everyone!

We also have the annual bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. The bus trip is a great value at \$100! You get to sit back and let someone chauffeur you and you have plenty of storage space for all of the new gear that you buy at the Hamfest. Additionally, the fun excursion allows you plenty of time to connect with the people that are on the bus ride. The people usually range in experience from brand new to dozens of years of experience. I was able to ride for my first time last year, and I highly recommend it! It is a great way to connect.

So my challenge to you as a reader is this: please think about how you connect with the people and members in our club. Think about how we can make deep, rich connections that build upon our hobby and make lasting lifetime connections. Think about how you might be able to help or share your knowledge with another person that makes that person enjoy the hobby in a different and meaningful way.

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

Hey all, this year has started off great. The DMR repeater is up and going, the 70cm net swapping to UofM has led to greater numbers, the 220 should (hopefully) be back up in June, and we are tinkering with the 820 to get it where it needs to be. Now, onto the big topic: summer Field Day. This year's saying is "Radio Connects". We will be partnering with the Nashoba ARC to have another successful year at the Germantown park. Our goal this year will be to work on getting those antennas just right to get a great signal and rack up those contacts. We are still determining how many stations we will be running, but we would love to have you all show up and work the bands with us. We will be publishing a link soon so you can tell us when you would like to attend so we make sure everyone gets a chance to do something you are interested in. I would love to see your faces, but I will be observing the Radio Connects motto. I will be off with my Army Reserve unit. Hopefully though I can connect with you because I will be taking my HF rig with me to make some contacts that afternoon. Anyways, We are looking forward to having a great time no matter where we are. Hope to see you soon.

Program's Corner
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

Our guest speaker for the May meeting will be Ed Fong (WB6IQN). As many of you know, he is the inventor of the DBJ-1 and DBJ-2 antenna that was featured in the February 2003 and March 2007 QST. His most recent antenna was the TBJ-1 – a triband base antenna that was published in March 2017 QST. The DBJ-1 is a highly effective dual band VHF/UHF base station antenna and the DBJ-2 is the portable roll up version. The DBJ-2 won the QST Plaque of the Month Award. Both of these antennas are featured in the ARRL VHF antenna Handbook and also in the ARRL Antenna Classic Handbook. There are over 40,000 of these antennas in use today. About half are used by hams and the other half by government and commercial agencies.

Ed will give a history on how these antennas were developed and the theory on how and why they work so well. There is no “black magic” to antennas. He will explain in a non-mathematical manner to convince you that for overall performance and simplicity this approach is one of the most practical.

After the presentation, I will be organizing a group buy of these antennas at a discount. If you are interested in ordering some, please let me know.

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

I have had some awesome people helping me make repairs and improvements to our club repeaters. Last month Allen Wood N5ALN and Michael Knight KK4IOH met John Reiners KN4BVH and me at the Brunswick site to add the Allstar gear to the 146.820 repeater. Allen and Michael had done prep work before heading to the site, so it was disconnect the old controller and hook up the new controller in quick order. With a couple of audio tweaks, we were done. The Allstar controller now gives the 146.820 repeater ability to connect to the NWS Memphis Weather nets. This was utilized a good bit at the beginning of the month when we had a lot of tornadic activity in the NWS Memphis warning area. Much thanks to the weather net controllers for their hard work during the activations.



Dan, AA4DF



HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 16, 2025

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Delta Club is planning a bus trip again this year to Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church by 6:30am, get to Von Braun Center about 9:45; leave after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to GBC about 8pm.

The fare is \$100.

The fare includes the transportation, \$15 Hamfest entry ticket, two Danver's breakfast biscuits of ham, sausage or plain, soda, water, cookies, crackers and fruit on the way down, during the day and on the return to Germantown. The bus backs up to the loading dock so you can bring your purchases to the bus rather than having to carry them around all day as well as getting something to drink or something to munch on.

We will take your reservation money (cash or check) at the May, June or July Delta Club meetings as well as at Field Day, June 28/29th.

Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can send a check to:

Delta Amateur Radio Club

c/o Joe Lowenthal

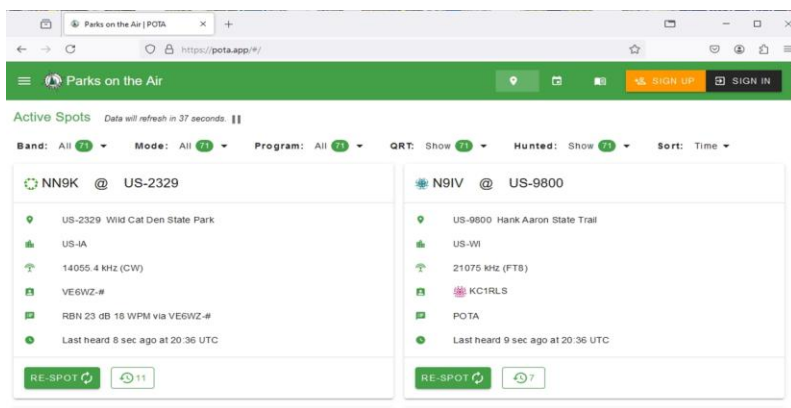
6675 Ashbridge Cove

Memphis TN 38120

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

QRP operators are now going out to locations to operate portable and make contacts. One new trend is to set up and operate from parks around the country. An easy way to find these Parks on the Air stations is to use the internet. A site is online that will list the locations and callsigns for these stations. This information will include the mode they are using and the last heard time for them transmitting. The information also includes the operating frequency they are using. This is a great resource for you to monitor with your radio and make contacts. If you want to see all the Parks On The Air activity check out the website. The web address is <https://pota.app/#/>



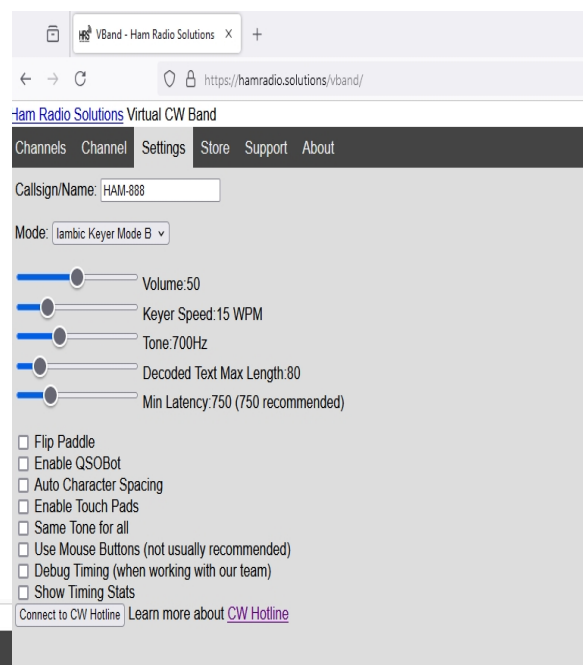
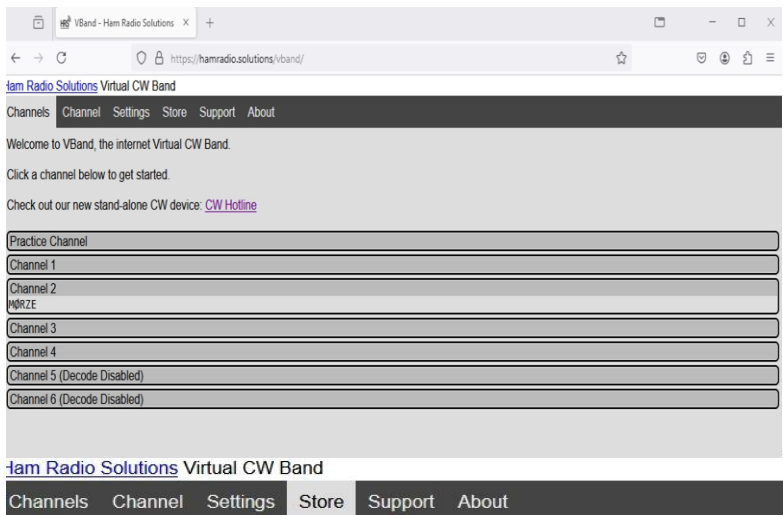
James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

One new way to operate Morse code without a radio is over the internet. This allows you to monitor contacts being made to help learn Morse code and send Morse code with your computer. The site is called “Vband”. Just go to the site and you are online. They have several channels you can monitor and a practice channel to use to see how you can send. The site is free to use and will use the right and left control keys for a paddle simulation. You can adjust sending speed, tone, and receive volume, Some other options for flipping paddle, auto character spacing, and using mouse buttons for a paddle are supported. To hook up your straight key or paddles to your computer they sell a USB adapter for your computer. The adapter price is \$25. If you are looking at a way to play with CW on the internet try Vband. The internet address is <https://hamradio.solutions/vband/>

James Butler
KB4LJV



USB Paddle Interface

- The USB paddle interface allows sending with an actual paddle or straight key instead of the computer keyboard. The adapter connects to a computer with an included mini USB cable, and has a 3.5mm TRS jack for the paddle / straight key connection. It has been tested on Windows, Mac OS, Linux, and Android.

The price is \$25 USD plus shipping. Choose US or international shipping. International shipping includes CA, EU, UK, IN, MX, JP, PH, and AU. All other shipping destinations please [contact us](#) before ordering.

Shipping Destination

US Shipping (\$5) \$30.00 USD

[Add to Cart](#)

- Wiring Information** - Wiring your key or paddle for use with the VBand Paddle Interface is the same as for a keyer or radio. You need a cable with a male 3.5mm (1/8") 3-conductor stereo TRS connector on one end and whatever connectors are appropriate for your key/paddle on the other. For use with a straight key, connect the tip to one side of the key, the sleeve to the other and leave the ring unconnected. For use with a paddle, connect the tip to the "dit" connection, the ring to the "dah" connection, and the sleeve or ground connector to the common.
- Troubleshooting** - The adapter works by simulating pressing left and right control keys on a keyboard. Under Windows, you may need to disable Stickykeys if it is configured to work with control keys. If you hear the USB disconnect sound when you use the key, please contact us.
- YouTube Video** - Charlie "Red" Brown, NJ7V, has published a YouTube video about VBand. [Check it out here.](#)
- Charging cables** - Some USB cables do not support data and can only be used for charging. The USB adapter requires a data cable to function.
- Important Notice** - The VBand Paddle Interface is designed to be used with conventional straight keys and paddles. Compatibility with external keyers or electronic paddles is not guaranteed. Also note that use of a Y adapter to connect your key to your rig and the VBand Paddle Interface at the same time may result in damage to one or both devices.



DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU

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 Jim Martin, KD4FUU at **treasurer@deltaclub.org** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

April 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$16,105.15	Minimum Daily Balance	\$16,086
Deposits & Credits	\$498.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$16,143
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$340.03 -		
Ending Balance	\$16,263.12		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

04/04	Deposit - Thank You	321.00
04/28	Deposit - Thank You	47.00
04/29	Deposit - Thank You	10.00
04/29	Deposit - Thank You	120.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$498.00

CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
04/04	1644	200.00	04/23	1648 *	46.96
04/08	1645	93.07			
				Total Checks	\$340.03

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY


Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
04/04	16,226.15	04/23	16,086.12	04/29	16,263.12
04/08	16,133.08	04/28	16,133.12		

Applications Received - Apr 2025		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(6) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$120.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	Total Dues Received	\$120.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (2 @ \$5)		\$10.00
Club Equipment Sale at Trenton Hamfest (3/22/2025) - Including \$5 Donation		\$321.00
Club Equipment Sale at FreeFest (4/12/2025) and Crawley's Ridge Fleamarket (4/19/2025)		\$47.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$378.00
	Total Deposits	\$498.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1643 - Void		
Check #1644 - Joe Lowenthal - Reimbursement for purchase of (2) 20Ah batteries for FreeFest donation		\$200.00
Check #1645 - Sam's Club - Club meeting refreshments		\$93.07
Check #1648 - Kroger - Club meeting refreshments		\$46.96
	Total Payments	\$340.03

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	INTEREST RATE	YTD INTEREST	INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID
\$5,413.68	4.160 %	\$42.94	\$63.92
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$42.94	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	1/22/2025	8/22/2025	
▲ Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,646.29	4.160 %	\$124.14	\$94.62
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$124.14	\$274.10	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	2/23/2025	10/22/2025	
 Hide More Details			

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - May 6, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - May 6, 2025

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Meetings and Special Events, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan KX4MQ.

Guests: Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on May 6, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

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

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, thanked Joe Lowenthal and everyone else who helped with FreeFest. Joe Plunk said he was looking forward to Field Day. Joe Plunk asked if DARC still participated in an event to help the March of Dimes. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said the event isn't being held anymore.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the April DARC Membership Meeting, which was seconded by Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk presented the membership renewal applications that have been received since the April BOD meeting. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Director or Programs Adam White, K4SPB. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about any outstanding bills or reimbursement requests that were expected during the month of May.

There was a discussion about using the DARC's tax-exempt status to make purchases at Costco or Sam's Club.

Director of Programs Adam White discussed the program that will be offered at the May DARC Membership Meeting.

Joe Plunk said that the Bylaws Committee plans to begin work on the revised DARC Bylaws soon. Committee Chairman Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, is still looking for volunteers to serve on the committee. Interested parties should contact Mary Jean.

Joe Plunk also announced that Mary Jean has been accepted into the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, to be held this fall. This is a great honor for Mary Jean, and she is very excited about participating in the program.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek reported that the DARC repeaters are performing well. A visit is being planned to the Methodist North repeater site to make repairs on the 224.420 repeater and the 144.390 APRS digipeater.

Joe Plunk thanked Joe Lowenthal for his recent updates to the Delta Club Information Net preamble.

Joe Plunk announced that Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, is working with Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, to learn the duties of the Director of Publications. Joe encouraged all BOD members to contribute articles to *Sparks*, and to get those articles to Mike and Johnathan as soon as possible.

Joe Plunk and Perry Hayes discussed the number of DARC membership applications that have been received this year. There was a discussion about offering online membership renewals, and accepting online payments via PayPal.

There was a discussion about the BOD position of Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President of DARC is not current on his dues and has not attended the requisite number of meetings, as required by the DARC bylaws. Since the bylaws do not provide a mechanism for the replacement of an Immediate Past President, there was a consensus that that BOD position of Immediate Past President is now vacant.

Mike Harrison made a motion that the BOD recognize the position of Immediate Past President to be vacant, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about Field Day, to be held June 28-29 at Germantown Municipal Park. Joe Plunk said that DARC and Nashoba Amateur Radio Club will be participating together. MARA has voted not to join forces with DARC and Nashoba this year.

There was a discussion about DARC possibly having to spend more money for food at Field Day, since MARA has traditionally shared that cost. There was a consensus that any shortage should be paid out of the BOD's discretionary fund, and the BOD will address the membership if an adjustment to the Field Day budget item is necessary.

Vice President Tyler Henley, who has been coordinating DARC's Field Day plans, announced that he will miss Field Day this year, due to military obligations. Tyler said that Matt

Cunningham, KQ4IOS, has agreed to step in and assist. Tyler asked everyone to let him or Matt know about the radio equipment they plan to bring to Field Day.

Joe Lowenthal said that he has signed the contract with Cline Tours for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. The cost is \$2,575 for the bus this year. Joe will be sending emails to encourage more riders. Joe will begin accepting money at the May DARC membership meeting. DARC will have two tables at the Hamfest.

Secretary Perry Hayes, Treasurer Jim Martin, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, and Director of Publications Mike Harrison had no further reports. Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, was absent.

Director of Programs Adam White said that he has received some good ideas for programs from the Signal Report surveys. He plans to incorporate those in the months after Field Day.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that another student from Technician Class 2-25 has passed their exam. 8 of the students have now passed. Another student hopes to take her exam soon, which would bring the number of students passing to 9 out of 13.

Joe said that DARC was planning a Technician Class License Class, to begin on June 30th or the second week of July. Joe is not sure if the class would meet on Monday or Thursday nights. Plans are for the class to be completed before the Huntsville Hamfest.

Joe also said that he is considering having FCC Amateur Radio License testing at Field Day. Joe Plunk said that a room may be available at the Germantown Community Library, adjacent to the Field Day site.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said the Repeater Committee plans to do their repairs at the Methodist North repeater site on May 31st. He believes he can repair the power supply for less than \$100, perhaps for less than \$50. Dan said he would be gathering the necessary equipment and supplies.

Joe Plunk thanked Johnathan Urschel for agreeing to take over the position of Director of Publications. Joe said that he hopes other members will volunteer to assume other positions on the BOD.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mike Harrison made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting
Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting
April 8, 2025

The April 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 8, 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 7:00pm. There were 48 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin KD4FUU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ.

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

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made an announcement about Armed Forces Day, to be held on Saturday, May 10th. Two stations will be operating from 8am to 2pm at the Millington Fire Training Academy. Ham is looking for operators to man the stations for a couple of hours. The facility is located at the south end of the runway on Dakar Street, near Veterans Parkway. Anyone interested can contact Ham at w4gmm@bellsouth.net.

Rick Kanschat, N0KYN, made an announcement about MARA's Memphis FreeFest, to be held on Saturday, April 12th from 9am to 3pm at Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Road. All sales support LeBonheur Children's Hospital. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday afternoon and to take down on Saturday afternoon.

Ham Hilliard made a motion to accept the Secretary's minutes, as published in Sparks. The motion was seconded by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Secretary Perry Hayes, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, and Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, had nothing to report.

Joe Plunk said he was looking forward to seeing everyone at FreeFest.

Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, said that plans are underway for Field Day, to be held on June 28-29. DARC will be working with Nashoba Amateur Radio Club this year. A schedule is being prepared so that operators can sign up to work the various stations.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, said that the evening's program would be held via Zoom.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that 7 students from the latest Technician Class License Class have tested. 5 students took their tests on March 31st. A number of the students are from out-of-town, and Joe is awaiting their results.

Joe Lowenthal also discussed the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 16th. The fare will be \$100 this year and \$75 for any additional family members. Joe will start accepting money in May.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said that March was a busy month for the Repeater Committee. There was a network problem at the Brunswick repeater site, which was fixed. Allstar was installed on the 146.82 repeater, which will allow linking during weather nets. The new secondary frequency for the Delta Club Information net will be 443.200. Dan also visited the 443.200 repeater site at the University of Memphis.

John Reiners, KN4BVH, made an announcement about the new Mid South DMR net, to be held on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm on Talk Group 31471.

John also discussed the local National Weather Service SKYWARN net. In 2025, the net has been activated 7 times. John reminded everyone to limit their reports to tornadoes or funnel clouds, wall clouds, winds of 40 mph or greater, hail, rainfall of 1 inch per hour or greater and flooding of 6 inches or greater causing road closures or washouts.

John said that everyone wanting to make a report to the net should identify themselves and wait for acknowledgement from net control. They should not kerchunk the repeater, make reports based on 3d party information, or check in just to check in.

John talked about his station, and gave some behind the scenes information about how the net operates.

Joe Plunk said that if there is an active SKYWARN weather net at the same time as the Delta Club Information Net, the information net will be held on the 443.200 repeater.

Dan Fleek said that he was very grateful to Allen Wood, N5ALN, and Michael Knight, KK4IOH, for their help with the project to add Allstar and the audio board to the 146.82 repeater.

After a short break, Roger Oakley, W3MIX, gave a presentation (via Zoom) about the Deep Space Exploration Society (DSES). DSES operates a radio telescope in rural Kiowa County, Colorado.

Roger talked about the ways DSES uses their telescope for astronomy and ham radio projects. DSES is very involved in EME (moon bounce) communications, and has also attempted bounce communications using the planet Venus.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Don Strahl made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS. The motion passed without opposition. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:44pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

Delta Ham License Training, 2025

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

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

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

Licenses Earned in 2025 from Delta Classes

8 Technician

0 General

3 Extra

Note:

As of April 19, 2022 there is a \$35 FCC application fee for new hams, renewals, Vanity callsigns, etc except for license upgrade, systematic callsign issue, name, address or email changes. This is in addition to the \$15 ARRL VEC FCC exam fee.

The new Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual is the Fifth Edition with question pool that becomes effective July 1, 2022 for four years.

The current ARRL General Class License Manual is the Tenth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2023 for four years.

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Thirteenth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2024 for four years.

As of late 2019, expired Amateur Radio license holders can get their license back by taking the current Technician exam and show proof of their previous license class. A previous Advanced Class licensee will only be able to get a General Class license.

PROPOSED CLASSES

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

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

The next **Technician** license class will probably start very late June or early July.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2025.

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

CURRENT CLASSES

None

PREVIOUS CLASSES

Tech Class 2-25 – February 24 – April 7, 2025

A Technician license class is being held on Zoom on 6 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 24, March 3, 17, 24, 31 and April 7. There is no class on March 10th. There were 16 students during the first class. Thirteen students finished the class.

Aaron KR4BZN tested online on March 7th. Five students, Owen KR4CVK, Cassie KJ5KTT, Tom KR4CUX, Bill KR4CVJ and Danny KR4CVH passed their Technician license at the in person testing on March 31st. The Laurel VE team of Perry N4GJ, Don KZ4GJ, Jeff AJ4GY, Rick WA4NVM and Joe WA4OVO provided the test session.

Mike Benakovich passed his Technician license online on April 5th. Erica KJ5LDJ earned her Technician license in Houston on April 26th. The other students are out of town so they will take their exam locally or online.

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO. The demonstration team was Joe WA4OVO on analog radio basics and Echolink, Rick WA4NVM on satellites, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS, and John on digital radio basics.

Extra Class 1-25 – January 4 – February 15, 2025

An Extra Class license class was held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 4, 12, 18, February 1 and 8. There was not a class on January 25th. The class had the opportunity to take the FCC exam at the Delta Club test session on Tuesday February 11th.

Seven students started the class with two from out of state. Five finished: Mark WB0ROG, Josh KQ4IOS, Greg KQ4OVD, Vernon KQ4WCL and Tommy KQ4SQC.

Congratulations to Josh KQ4IOS who passed at the Delta Club January test session and Mark WB0ROG who passed on February 1st at his local Arizona test session. Congratulations to Vernon KQ4WCL who passed at the February 11th Delta Club test session.

The instructors were Paul KY4MX, David KY4FH, Dave AD4Q, Park AI5CY, Carolyn KX4QF, Paul KA4X, Bobby KD5BS and Joe WA4OVO.

Thanks to the Delta Club VE team - Mike KW4RI, Dana WI4B, Tom AC5MR, Ham W4GMM and Roger WR4R.

General Class 4-24 – November 7 – December 12, 2024

An in-person General license class will be held on five Thursday nights November 7, 14, 21, December 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class will be an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway. The seven students are Michael KQ4QLJ, John KQ4UIC, Eric KN4QNU, Tony KN4FBK, William KQ4UEO, Randy KQ4HJH, and Rich KN4OEI.

Congratulations to William KQ4UEO who upgraded on December 3rd.

Congratulations to Michael KQ4QLJ and Tony KN4FBK for upgrading to General on December 12th.

Thanks to the Delta Club VE Team of Mike KW4RI, Jeff KX4LO, Perry N4GJ, Randall KY4MY, Doug WA4CB, Don KZ4GJ, Dan KN4FBJ and Joe WA4OVO who provided the test session.

The instructors are Paul KY4MX, Park AI5CY, Steve KK4VPT, Billy WL4B, Perry N4GJ, Randall KY4MY, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO. The Delta Club ARRL VE Team will provide an opportunity for FCC testing on December 12th.



Randall KY4MY presenting to General Class 4-24
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Tech Class 3-24 – July 8 – August 12, 2024

An in-person Technician license class was held on six Monday nights on July 8, 15, 22, 29 August 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. There were 12 students registered with eight completing the instructional period.

Congratulations to Technicians Chris Pechak KQ4TQT and Daniel Lees KQ4TQ9U who tested at the Delta Club July 9th ARRL test session. Bill Matthews KQ4UEO also tested early on-line for Technician. Congratulation to John Burwell KQ4UIC, and Dexter Haney KJ5HMT for earning their Technician license. Congratulations to Cody Hubley KQ4UJD for earning Technician and General.



Steve KK4VPT presenting



Perry N4GJ presenting



Satellite Demo by Rick WA4NVM



FM Digital Opns by John KN4BVH

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO.

The last class was demonstrations on FM Repeater Basics, satellite operations, APRS, and FM digital operations.

The equipment demonstrators are Rick WA4NVM on satellites, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS, John KN4BVH on FM digital radios and Joe WA4OVO on repeater basics. The classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

How to Print Your FCC License

1. Go to **<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>**
2. Enter your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) and Password
 - a. If you do not know your FRN, go to Search box and click on License
Click on Amateur; Enter your callsign in Callsign box;
Your FRN is in center of page after your name
(If you do not know your Password, click on Contact Tech Support after Forgot your Password)
3. In When My Licenses screen comes up, click on **Now** in the green line reading “Change your paper authorization preferences [here](#), or download your official electronic authorizations now”
4. In Under Download Authorizations screen, highlight your callsign in the My Authorization area at the bottom left.
5. Click on ADD to right of the highlighted callsign.
6. Highlight your callsign in Authorization to Download and then click on Download on bottom right of screen.
7. If pop-ups are blocked, click on Allow One
8. Click Open at bottom and Print your License.

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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

ARRL Benefits

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

- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and QEX. QST is the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and, on the air, QEX covering topics related to radio communications experimentation, and National Contest Journal (NCJ), covering radio contesting.
- Access to 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!

2025 Board of Directors

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Repeater Trustee

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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

Field Day 2025 – June 28 – 29, 2025. Look for more information in the June Edition of Sparks!

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

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Name of Net	Frequency (MHz)	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
Delta Club Info Net (Secondary)	443.200	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Info Net (Primary)	146.820	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
YL Info Net (Secondary)	443.200	+(107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
Elmer Net	147.030	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.910	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
Midsouth DMR Net	DMR – TG31471		7:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	147.150	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Crowley's Ridge ARC	145.450	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.490	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
OBARC Linked	444.700	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
ARES Training Net	146.850	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	DMR – TG3147		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.200	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Neshoba Club Info Net	146.625	- (107.2)	8:30p	4 th Monday

TENNESSEE HF NETS

Net Name	Freq. MHz	Local Time	Day of Week
Tennessee CW Net	3.563	7:00p	Daily
Tennessee Slow CW Net	3.682	7:30p	Tue-Sun
Tennessee Alternate Phone Net	7.238		As needed
CUSEC	3.810		As needed
CUSEC	7.180		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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DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

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



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



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