

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 67 * August 2021



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)

Sparks Newsletter

Website: <http://deltaclub.org>

Facebook:

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

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 ^{+107.2} |
| 144.390 Digipeater | *Fusion |

We plan to meet this month **In Person and via "ZOOM."**

Topic: August Member Meeting

Time: Aug 10, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86406979183?pwd=TWVjdjRJRkZvU29FZXp4SU1HZTRlZz09>

Meeting ID: 864 0697 9183

Passcode: 318375

Program: *"HF Digital beyond FT8 including Echolink"* by Ian Lucas via YouTube

For Ham License testing information: Delta Club FCC testing sessions are held monthly except December. Registration begins at 5:30 PM; testing begins by 6:00 PM. Please bring a photo ID and another form of identification, copies of existing licenses or CSCEs, and your FCC Registration Number (FRN). Please be on time for registration to allow our Volunteer Examiner (VE) team to complete their work prior to the club meeting. The 2021 test fee is \$15 (cash or check). Individuals receiving their initial FCC license grant at a Delta Club test session or through a Delta Club training class will receive a complimentary individual club membership for the remainder of the current calendar year when they also show proof of ARRL membership. For more information, please email our VE Liaison, Jeff Krause, AJ4GY at AJ4GY@comcast.net or call at 901-301-6776. **NOTE:** Jeff is looking for a VE Liaison replacement. If you are interested, please contact Jeff at AJ4GY@comcast.net or 901-301-6776.

Announcements

Delta Club Polos Available for Pickup at the August Meeting

If you ordered a Delta Club polo shirt, they will be available for pickup at the Tuesday, August 10 club meeting. If you are unable to attend the August meeting in person and would like to receive your polo shirt before Huntsville on August 21 or the meeting on September 14, email Mary Jean Hall KY4FB at ky4fb@arrl.net to make alternative arrangements.

President's Corner

Submitted by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

I think it is safe to say we are all familiar with the expression "two steps forward and one step back". Currently it feels like Delta Club is experiencing this in a couple of different areas.

One area where this is happening is with our 146.82 repeater. After we replaced the antenna in 2020, we were expecting the repeater to serve us faithfully for many years. Unfortunately due to other problems on the tower that are beyond our control, the repeater has had problems that got to the point that we have temporarily shut down the 146.82 repeater. For the nightly net, we have switched to the 146.625 repeater. As I mentioned before we replaced the antenna in 2020, the location of the 146.82 repeater makes it difficult to work on the feedline or antenna. This means the 146.82 repeater maybe down for an extended period of time. We had the 146.625 repeater as a backup because it seems to be our next best 2 meter repeater. Realizing that the 146.82 repeater may be down for awhile, we are reexamining all of our options. Another option we are looking at for the nightly net is the 443.700 repeater. After some testing, we feel this may have better coverage than the 146.625 repeater. Before we make the decision to use the 443.700 repeater for the nightly net, we wanted to make sure everyone has a 70cm radio and that the coverage is better for our members. We will discuss this more during the August member meeting. If you would like to check out the 443.700 repeater, the offset is +5MHz and PL 107.2.

Another area where it feels like we are taking two steps forward and one step back is with Covid-19.

After not having meetings in person for over one year, we started having in person meetings starting June 2021. The August meeting will be in person and on Zoom. Due to the increase in Covid-19 cases, we will make a few changes for the in person meeting, we will only have 4 chairs per table and we will require mask to be worn. We discussed the mask requirement at the August Board of Directors meeting and felt that with the public guidelines currently changing in

response to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, we should require the mask. This is something that we can discuss and get your input at the August meeting. If you are not comfortable meeting in person or with wearing a mask, we hope you will join us on Zoom.

Thank you for your support and understanding during these and other challenges. Remember that we made it through 2020, so we can make it though whatever 2021 throws at us.

73,
Steve Frazier
KK4VPT

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 fee is \$20 per individual or \$25 per family. Completed applications and payment may be mailed to:

Delta Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

If you prefer you can print and bring the completed form, along with the membership fee, to any in-person meeting. Please contact Jim Martin KD4FUU at kd4fuu@gmail.com with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS
July 1, 2021 through July 30, 2021

| SUMMARY | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$22,772.99 | Minimum Daily Balance | \$22,239 |
| Deposits & Credits | \$745.58 + | Average Monthly Statement Balance | \$22,536 |
| Withdrawals | \$40.95 - | | |
| Fees | \$0.00 - | | |
| Automatic Transfers | \$0.00 + | | |
| Checks | \$567.67 - | | |
| Ending Balance | \$22,909.95 | | |

| DEPOSITS & CREDITS | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 07/08 | Deposit - Thank You | | 75.00 |
| 07/28 | Deposit - Thank You | | 670.58 |
| | | | Total Deposits & Credits |
| | | | \$745.58 |

| WITHDRAWALS | | | |
|-------------|---|--|-------|
| 07/02 | TN Sos Annual Rp 6157412286 Steve Frazier 0841506 | | 40.95 |

| CHECKS | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|
| Date | Check No. | Amount |
| 07/14 | 1548 | 567.67 |

| DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| Date | Balance | Date | Balance | Date | Balance |
| 07/02 | 22,732.04 | 07/14 | 22,239.37 | 07/28 | 22,909.95 |
| 07/08 | 22,807.04 | | | | |

SMALL BUSINESS CD *0028

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Available Balance | <u>INTEREST RATE</u> | <u>YTD INTEREST</u> | <u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u> |
| \$10,741.44 | 1.590 % | \$84.80 | \$21.08 |
| ▼ View More Details | | | |

Applications Received - July 2021

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| (2) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated | \$25.00 |
| (1) New Membership(s) - Fee Waived | \$0.00 |
| (0) Membership Renewal(s) | \$0.00 |
| Donations Received w/ Applications | \$20.00 |
| Total Received | \$45.00 |

Other Deposits

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Deposits - Huntsville Bus Trip | \$150.00 |
| Club Polo Shirt Orders | \$397.00 |
| Nashoba Club - 2021 Field Day Reimbursement | \$153.58 |
| Total Deposits | \$745.58 |

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Carolyn Horne, KX4QF

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2021

Attendees: Steve Frazier KK4VPT, Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Ian Lucas KN4OEK, Ray Cole KX5RC, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Len Grice W4MKS.

Absent: None

Guests: Rick Tillman WA4NVM.

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, August 3rd, 2021, at 6:30 PM on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. President Steve Frazier KK4VPT called the meeting to order.

Barry McDonald said he had to shut off the 146.82 repeater due to excessively high SWR. The power output is practically nothing. Barry McDonald and Rick Tillman WA4NVM have done a lot of work on site. They swapped out the repeater but that did not help. The issue must be in either the antenna or the feedline, even though they are located on the other side of the tower from those affected by the broken waveguide. They have borrowed Pat Lane W4OQG's TDR equipment to identify where defects are in the feedline all the way up to the antenna. Delta Club does have another feedline on the tower from the ground going up at least another 100 feet above the current antenna, which they are also testing. There are a few options 1) Hire a climber to go up, check it with a dummy load and then we can run a test, 2) have an alternate antenna on hand for the climber to attach if we need to use our other feedline, however that may involve attaching end connectors, which run about \$175-180, if they aren't already on there. Since the alternate feed is 100 feet further up the tower, the climber would have to get up there to install the alternate antenna or to route the feedline back down to the current antenna location. Barry McDonald will start shopping around for an experienced climber who is licensed and insured to climb a commercial tower. The Board agreed that it would be worth \$1500 or so to have someone go up there to inspect it. Jim Martin wondered if we had insurance to cover it, but the feedline is not covered in the equipment insurance policy.

Joe Lowenthal sent an email to Net Control operators to try out the 443.700 repeater, which has better coverage than the 146.625 repeater. He needs to find out how many members have 70 cm equipment and Steve Frazier will do a hand count at the members meeting on Tuesday.

Ian Lucas said that the August program will feature HF digital modes beyond FT8, and how to connect to our 146.625 repeater via Echolink.

Joe Lowenthal talked about the status of the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. The bus company moved the due date for the check receipt to August 12th, so there is time to mail it in. As of the date of this meeting the Von Braun Center has made it a policy to fully open the Hamfest with no restrictions and no masks. However, if the Von Braun Center does close due to COVID-19, we get a full refund from the bus company. If we cancel due to COVID-19, there is a reduced refund. Joe said he will work on getting the food. Scott Adams said he will give him leftovers from the members meeting. Joe Lowenthal detailed the layout at the Von Braun Center. The Delta Club has tables 250 and 251. He will put out a list of equipment before the trip to see if anyone here wants to purchase it. The remainder will be for sale on our tables. Joe announced that due to the resurgence of the COVID-19 latest variant he will not be making the trip himself.

Steve Frazier said that he had concerns about the new Delta variant, especially after talking with a pulmonary physician, and thought we should institute a mask policy for our live meetings. Also, the Board advised that if someone is not feeling well, they should elect to attend meetings via Zoom.

Mary Jean Hall gave an update on polo shirts. The orders have been submitted and she is expecting to hear back from the supplier any day. She will have them at the club meeting and on the bus to Huntsville, or people can arrange to meet her to pick up theirs. The Board also discussed By-Laws. Since we have had feedback from an attorney, Mary Jean will update the By-Laws accordingly and the Board will meet to review them on August 19th at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Scott Adams said there are lots of refreshments left for both the members meeting and the bus trip. He has no plans to buy anything more right now.

Jim Martin read the Treasurer's Report. He sent a check to the State of Tennessee for our annual report and to Mary Jean Hall for Field Day food reimbursement. There will be an upcoming check for the Huntsville charter bus fee. Joe Lowenthal said to put the charter number on the check. Neshoba sent in their reimbursement for Field Day food.

Jim Martin received two membership application forms in our P.O. Box and forwarded pdf versions of them to Carolyn Horne for processing. Carolyn Horne received another application at the July members meeting. Of the applications, all were new members, with one family membership, bringing the total to four new members. There was a donation included.

Steve Frazier is working on the President's Corner for this month's SPARKS. He will be including comments about the repeater issue and the new wave of COVID-19 Delta variant and our response.

Carolyn Horne read the new membership requests. Joe Lowenthal moved to accept, and all agreed with none opposed.

Mary Jean said she planned on bringing an additional laptop to the live members meeting to monitor and field questions from the chat room and keep a list of on-line attendees to give to the Secretary.

Joe Lowenthal said one person should be testing before the members meeting on Tuesday.

Steve Frazier made a motion to adjourn, and all agreed. He adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting

Submitted by Carolyn Horne, KX4QF

DARC Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2021

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 7:00 PM at both the Ellendale Church of Christ and on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. Club President Steve Frazier KK4VPT called the meeting to order and then welcomed everyone to the meeting. At least 53 members and guests were present for the meeting.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Ham Hilliard W4GMM moved to "approve the Treasurer's Report and Minutes as published in Sparks." Ned Savage KA4BLL seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

Announcements

Steve Frazier KK4VPT and Carolyn Horne KX4QF reminded members to fill in the check-in sheets for attendance credit. Zoom participation was noted by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO who was on Zoom and via screen shots at the venue.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO is teaching a Tech Class which started June 24th and goes through August 12th on 6 Thursday nights. The first 3 classes are Zoom and the last 3 are in-person at the Ellendale Church of Christ main hall where we have our monthly meetings. Eight students are taking the class and one is auditing. He also reminded members that the Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip is coming up soon. The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church at 6:30 AM August 21st, getting into the Von Braun center at 9:30 AM, leaving around 4:30 PM after the prize drawing, and arriving home at 8 PM. The \$75 fee includes refreshments, tickets to the Hamfest and bus fare. Make checks payable to the Delta Amateur Radio Club. Checks may be sent to his home QTH which is good in QRZ. The fee will increase to \$80 in August.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB had a display of a Cornerstone polo shirt along with sign-up forms at the main desk. She reminded everyone that this was the cut-off date for placing an order and to sign up or get in touch with her ASAP as she is placing the order in the next few days. The shirts have the club logo, first name and call sign, with mic clips and dual pockets for pens on each side.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO asked how many got the SPARKS newsletter in their email. One member said they did not receive it and Steve Frazier KK4VPT said he would investigate.

Ham Hilliard W4GMM said that Ham101 is canceled until further notice due to lack of submission of topics. You can email him with ideas for Ham101 at w4gmm@bellsouth.net. He suggested making it a quarterly event rather than monthly.

Steve Frazier KK4VPT said the Thomas Medlin W5KUB balloon event on July 3rd turned out very well. Videos have been posted on the Delta Club YouTube channel: [Air support for W5KUB high altitude balloon launch. - YouTube](#) and [Video and audio of air support for W5KUB high altitude balloon launch and recovery on July 3, 2021 - YouTube](#). Many videos of Field Day 2021 have also been uploaded to our channel. Steve Frazier KK4VPT said we logged 431 contacts on Field Day: 7 on CW (Pat Lane W4OQG bravely logged these after being taken to the hospital for a fall in which he broke several bones in his nose and before he was persuaded to be driven home to rest!), 174 on SSB and 250 on FT4/FT8.

Discussion / Program

John Reiners KN4BVH gave a presentation on Portable Solar Power.

Closing Remarks

Delta Club President Steve Frazier KK4VPT adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 7:00 PM both in-person and via Zoom. Check the current edition of SPARKS or the Delta Amateur Radio Club Facebook page just before the scheduled meeting time for more information on venue instructions or the Zoom link for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Secretary (2021)

Delta Ham License Training, 2021

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 will implement a \$35 application fee in 2021.

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 2021 from Delta Classes

25 Technician

6 General

4 Extra

Note:

Coming soon will be a \$35 FCC application fee for new hams, renewals, upgrades, etc except for address or email changes.

The current Technician ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Fourth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2018 for four years. This is the new question pool.

The current ARRL General Class License Manual is the Ninth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2019 for four years.

The current ARRL Extra Class License Manual is the Twelfth Edition with question pool that became effective July 1, 2020 for four years.

As of September 3, 2015 there is no longer any charge for Vanity callsigns.

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 sessions; one per week on a week night 6:15pm-9:30pm or Saturday day 9am-1pm.

The next General license class will probably start in early November 2021.
The next Extra Class license class will probably start in early January 2022

CURRENT CLASSES

Tech Class 4-21 – June 24 – August 12, 2021

A Technician license class is being held on six Thursday nights between June 24th and August 12th from 6:15-9:30pm. The original seven students have dwindled to five in the class and one auditing. It has become a Zoom class due to the increase of Covid with the FCC test session the only in-person class. The classes are being held on June 24, July 1, 8, 22, 29 and August 12th. The FCC exam was offered on July 29th at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). Two students took the exam(s). Congratulations to Chris Hadley KO4SHG and Dennis Lee KO4SHH for earning their Technician licenses. Additional congratulations to Chris KO4SHG for also upgrading to General. Bill Walter N4ELF also tested and upgraded from General to Extra. The other three students will test at a later date.

The Delta Club VE Team of Jeff Krause AJ4GY, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Barry McDonald W5CJ, Bobby Stroud KD5BS and Tom Ungren KK4ZZZ were the VEs.

The instructors are Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Paul Roberts KA9VAU, Perry Hayes N4GJ, David Wilson KY4FH, John Reiners KN4BVH, and Pat Lane W4OQG. The equipment demonstrators will be John Reiners KN4BVH, Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ, Rick Tillman WA4NVM, Richard Martin K4DXF, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

COMPLETED CLASSES

Tech Class 2-21 – February 22 – April 5, 2021

A Technician license class was held one night a week via Zoom from February 22nd thru April 5th on Monday or Thursday nights. Twenty-two students started on the 22nd with 19 finishing the training. An in-person class was held on March 29th for review and opportunity for FCC exam at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave) in Bartlett.

Sixteen students tested and all passed.

Congratulations to Wallace Bell KO4OWD, Park Dodge AI5CY, Michael Engelken KI5PDQ, Arie McClanahan KI5PDR, Scott McDermott KO4OWE, Terrell Naylor KO4OWF, Craig Owen KO4OWG, Adam Shirley KO4OWH, Don Swindoll KO4OWI, Diane Thomas KO4OWJ, Anthony Tribo KO4OQK, and Bruce Swindoll KO4OWN. Additional congratulations to Michael KI5PDQ and Scott KO4OWE for upgrading to General. An extra congratulaton to Park AI5CY for running the table to Extra Class. Congratulations also to Ina Wiehl KY4GA for running the table to Extra Class at the Atoka TARS test session on March

15th. Congratulations to Mike Murell KO4QBT for earning his Technician and General licenses at the Olive Branch ARRL test session on April 20th.



Tech Class 2-21 test session left side Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Tech Class 2-21 test session right side Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

Also, two CBU students tested. Congratulations to Jose Bonafasi KO4OWL and Will Clayton KF0EYO.

Additionally, nine year old Jacob White KO4OWN earned his Technician license.



Photo back left to right: 9 year old Jacob KO4OWN and proud grandpa Bob AI4GI;
front left to right: VEs Perry N4GJ, Bobby KD5BS, Jeff KJ4GY

Thanks to the Laurel VEC team of Joe WA4OVO, Perry N4GJ, Jeff AJ4GY, Barry W5CJ, Bobby KD5BS, Rick WA4NVM, and Eric WD5FTA for administering the FCC test session.

The instructors were Paul KA9VAU, Perry N4GJ, Len W4MKS, John KN4BVH, Barry W5CJ, Pat W4OQG, and Joe WA4OVO. The equipment demonstrators were Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF on Satellite, Rick KJ4QNWQ on APRS, John KN4BVH on Digital, and Joe WA4OVO on Repeater Basics.

CBU Tech Review Class 3-21 – February 24, 2021

A Technician license review session was held in Dr. Eric Welch (WD5FTA)'s junior level Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle class for nine Christian Brother

University students on February 24th . Congratulations to Cesar Mireles KO4NFT, Allison Sorette KO4NFU, Brennan Griffin KO4NFV, Michael Longo KO4NFW, Jose Villa Hidalgo KO4NFX, Novy KO4NFY and Sean Williams KI5OEI, who earned their Technician licenses.

Thanks to the Laurel VEC Team of Barry W5CJ, Perry N4GJ, Jelly N4HLT, Rick WA4NVM, Eric WD5FTA and Joe WA4OVO for providing the FCC test session.

EXTRA Class 1-21 – January 4 – February 25, 2021

An Extra Class license class was held one night a week via Zoom from January 4th thru February 25th on Monday or Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm. The Zoom classes met on January 4, 14, 21, 25, February 1, 11 and tested a week late on the 25th due to snow on the 18th. The students were Carla KO4FVX, Ransom KO4FVZ, Russell KO4ASW, Jason KO4DOH, Mary Jean KN4FBL and David KN4BXI.

Congratulations to Mary Jean Hall KY4FB (formerly KN4FBL) and David Wilson KY4FH (formerly KN4BXI) who passed their Extra exam on the 25th.

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, John KN4BVH, Dean N2LAZ , Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA9VAU and Pat W4OQG.

Thanks to the Delta Club ARRL VE Team of Jeff Krause AJ4GY, Stacy KJ4MDA, Warren KC7ND, Tom KK4ZZZ, Barry W5CJ and Joe WA4OVO for providing the FCC test session.

In addition to the Extra Class students testing, congratulations to Brian Kelly KO4KAO for upgrading to General. Also, the following earned their Technician licenses: Dan Currey KO4NGZ, Rob Currey KO4NHA, Wilson Langford KO4NHB, Ebben Raves KO4NHC, David Wolford KO4NHD, Garrett Robinson KO4NHE, and Steven Porter KO4NHF.

General Class 4-20 – October 26 – December 7, 2020

General Class 4-20 was held via Zoom with five students. It was held on five nights on Monday and Thursday nights from October 26th to December 7th from 6:15-9:30pm. The nights were Monday October 26, Monday November 2nd, Thursday November 12th, Monday 23rd and ARRL FCC testing Monday December 7th.

Congratulations to Ransom Bowen KO4FVZ and Elliot Pope KO4DER for upgrading to General on December 7th. Also, congratulations to Carla Andrews KO4FVX for upgrading to General on December 21st at the Tipton County ARS (Atoka) test session.

The others will test later. Congratulations to Kevin Kelly KO4KAO who earned his Technician license during the Delta Club test session.

Thanks to the ARRL VE Team of Jeff Krause AJ4GY, Warren Zimmer KC7ND, Tom Ungren KK4ZZZ, Dan Columbus AA4HV, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO for providing the test session.

The instructors were Perry N4GJ, Barry W5CJ, Paul KA9VAU, Len W4MKS, John KN4BVH, Pat W4OQG, and Joe WA4OVO.

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.

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 21, 2021

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 21, 2021. The fare is \$75 if paid by July 31st and \$80 after. A spouse or child living at the same address can accompany a full fare rider for \$50. The fare includes the \$10 hamfest entry ticket. There will be two Danver's bacon, ham or plain breakfast biscuits, water, sodas, cookies, 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 can not go. Let me know.

Cash or checks will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay at a meeting. 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 bacon, ham or plain biscuits.

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 at 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 8pm.

The Huntsville Hamfest website is www.hamfest.org.

DELTA Club For Sale List - AUGUST 06, 2021

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

Below are items being taken to Huntsville to be sold by the club. If you are interested in any of these items please contact Steve Frazier at sfrazier1@bellsouth.net or 218-6385, or Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@gmail.com or 901-628-4318 before August 20th.

| No | Sell Price | Used Price | New Price | Description | Manufacturer | Model | Serial No | Comments |
|----|------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|--|
| 1 | \$125 | \$160 | n/a | Antenna Analyzer | MFJ | MFJ-259 | | Boxed with instructions |
| 2 | 10 | | | Attenuator | Weinschel | 35-20 | | 20 dB, 25 watts |
| 3 | \$5 | | \$9.95 | Balun, Hi-Q | Van Gorden | 4:1 | | |
| 4 | \$50 | | \$110 | Filter, low pass | MFJ | MFJ-704 | | 1.5KW in box |
| 5 | 20 | | | Filter, Low Pass | JW Miller | C-514-T | | |
| 6 | 20 | | | Filter, Low Pass | Drake | TV 1000 | | |
| 7 | \$125 | \$150 | \$189 | Headset | Heil | Pro-Set Elite | | |
| 8 | \$75 | | \$110 | Inverter, 1000 watt | Xantrex | B11500582 | | New |
| 9 | \$60 | | \$110 | Inverter, 1000 watt | Xantrex | B11501126 | | Unused, no manual |
| 10 | \$15 | | \$20 | Inverter, 400 watt | Energizer | | | |
| 12 | 75 | | | Microphone, Desk, dual station | Kenwood | MC-85 | MC-85 | |
| 13 | \$40 | | \$54.95 | Power Strip | MFJ | MFJ-1112 | | DC to DC |
| 14 | \$100 | \$100 | \$150 | Power Supply | Astron | SS-25M | 205030027 | |
| 15 | \$40 | \$40 | \$130 | Power Supply | Astron | RS-12M | 312207 | |
| 16 | \$15 | \$15 | | Power Supply | Vista | III-R | 088277 | |
| 17 | 100 | | | Power Supply | Kenwood | PS-52 | PS-52 | |
| 18 | 20 | | | Relay | DowKey | 260B-220442 | | |
| 19 | 20 | | | Relay | DowKey | 260B-220442 | | new |
| 20 | \$75 | | \$210 | RiGblaster Advantage | West Mt. Radio | 58012-1288 | | |
| 21 | 75 | \$75-135 | | Speaker | Kenwood | SP-31 | SP-31 | |
| 22 | 150 | \$300-550 | | Station Monitor | Kenwood | SM-230 | | |
| 23 | \$50 | | \$79.95 | Switch, antenna, remote | MFJ | MFJ-4712 | | 2 position |
| 24 | 20 | | | Switch, Coax, 2 port | B&W | CB-55A2 | | |
| 25 | 20 | | | Switch, Coax, 2 port | B&W | 592-899 | | |
| 26 | 20 | | | Switch, Coax, 3 port | B&W | 551A | | |
| 27 | 25 | | | Switch, Coax, 5 port | B&W | 590G | | |
| 28 | 100 | | 190 | SWR Meter | Ameritron | AWM-35 | | new |
| 29 | \$50 | | \$89.95 | SWR wattmeter | MFJ | MFJ-873 | | |
| 30 | \$35 | | | SWR/Power Meter | Kenwood | SW-100A | | |
| 31 | \$20 | | | Transceiver UHF | Alinco | DJ-S41T | T008970 | 340mw, 20 channels |
| 32 | \$15 | | | Transceiver VHF/UHF | Icom | IC-24AT | 02547 | Frozen display at C0 |
| 33 | h IC-24AT | | | Transceiver VHF/UHF Desk Charge | Icom | BC-72 | 008576 | w/power supply & BP84 battery |
| 34 | / IC-24AT | | | Transceiver VHF/UHF Power Supply | Icom | BC-74A | | Wall wart power supply for Icom IC-24AT |
| 35 | \$100 | | no longer | Transceiver, 2m/220/440 | Kenwood | TH-F6A | 00600176 | w/ MFJ-1716S antenna, extra battery, earphone |
| 36 | \$600 | \$555 | | Transceiver, HF | Icom | 706MKIIG | 17477 | w/Separation Kit |
| 37 | 706MK | \$87 | | Transceiver, HF Separation Kit | Icom | OPC-581 | none | for IC-706MKIIG |
| 38 | \$250 | \$275 | | Transceiver, VHF/UHF | Kenwood | TM-721A | 9081114 | 144/440 w/MFJ-916 Duplexer |
| 39 | \$100 | | | Tuner | LDG | Z100 Autotuner | none | w/ DB9 pigtail |
| 40 | 100 | | | Tuner | Ten-Tec | 238B | | High power |
| 41 | 75 | | | Tuner | Dentron | Super Tuner | | |
| 42 | \$350 | \$285 | \$389 w/o case or slugs | Wattmeter | Bird | 43 | 11802 | with case and 8 slugs: 100w 2-30MHz, 250w 200-500MC, 100w 100-250MHz, 10w 100-250MHz, 250w 2-30MHz, 50w 100-250MHz, 50w 200-500MHz, 100w 200-500MHz |

FCC Auto-Registration Feature for Exam Applicants to be Discontinued

Submitted By: Bob Vawter KW4RJ

Auto-registration in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) amateur radio exam for candidates using a Social Security number will be discontinued on May 20, 2021. Applicants must use an FCC Registration Number ([FRN](#)) for all license transactions with the FCC. Examinees must [register in CORES](#) and receive an FRN *before* exam day. Starting on May 20, electronic batch filed applications that do not include a candidate's FRN will be rejected. The Social Security/Licensee ID Field will be disabled. An [instructional video](#) provides step-by-step instructions on how to establish a CORES account, which is necessary for licensees to make administrative updates and download electronic license authorizations. After June 29, all filers [must provide an email address](#) on all applications. When an email is provided, applicants will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses once granted (allow incoming email from authorizations@fcc.gov). If no email is provided when filing on or after June 29, applications will be rejected. ARRL VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend.

Licensees need to log in to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) to [download their authorizations](#). The FCC no longer issues paper copies. — *Thanks to the FCC*

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-auto-registration-feature-for-exam-applicants-to-be-discontinued>

ARRL Benefits

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

- Your choice of a print magazine. Eligible US-based ARRL members can elect to receive QST, the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air, aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and on the air.
- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and now 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.
- Free FCC license renewal and modification service.

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.

Packet Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

QRP Labs has updated their QCX digital Morse code transceiver kit. The circuitry is the same with a couple of improvements. The new circuit board layout is easier to assemble and larger than the old one. All connectors are mounted on the PC board. The front panel PC board has the LCD screen, volume, tuning, and function push buttons mounted on it. The layout makes the unit a lot easier to mount in a case. QRP Labs even has a case you can buy to put the radio in. The QCX produces 5 watts output and operates on a single band of your choice. The manual is on the website for you to look at before you order. Performance is very good on this unit. If you are looking for a nice CW transceiver kit check this one out from QRP Labs. The web address is <https://qrp-labs.com/>



James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

Amateurs operating Morse code are always looking for good prices for Morse code keys. New keys that are high quality can run hundreds of dollars. You can get used equipment of high quality by looking at new and used keys from other countries. Older military tough equipment can be purchased at very good prices. Russian and Chinese Morse equipment is common. Some equipment is new and never used in original boxes. I have several Chinese straight keys which have a great feel and operate great. I also have some Russian keys. If you want the best keys for your money you can look for these keys on Ebay. Do a search for “Morse code” to see all they have.



James Butler
KB4LJV

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 Linda KJ4CTX

YL NET – Please join us each Saturday night at 8:45 p.m. on the 146.820 repeater for the YL Net. We enjoy hearing from you.

Logbook Of The World (LOTW) User Guide

If you are a new user or planning to use "Logbook of The World" (LoTW), Gary, ZL2IFB, has put together an easy step-by-step guide or should we say manual (about 33 pages with pictures) to help you use LoTW.

The PDF file is available for download at:

https://www.g4ifb.com/LoTW_New_User_Guide.pdf

73, W4WTN

New Repeater in West Memphis & Buy/sell Facebook Group

There is a new System Fusion repeater in West Memphis.

The frequency is 442.400 with a PL Tone of 107.2 for non System Fusion users.

Also, Marc says there is a Buy and Sell Facebook Group for the Memphis Metro Area. The link is:

www.facebook.com/groups/memphismetroareahamradioswapshop

73, Marc Gwin AG5QY

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 38184-2768

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>.

2021 Board of Directors

President

Steve Frazier, KK4VPT
sfrazier1@bellsouth.net
901-218-6385

Vice President

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB
ky4fb@arrl.net
901-356-1475

Secretary

Carolyn Horne KX4QF
KX4QF@arrl.net
901-737-7296

Treasurer

Jim Martin KD4FUU
KD4FUU@gmail.com
248-830-8179

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO
wa4ovo@gmail.com
901-628-4318

Director of Publications

Mike Harrison, KM4MRW
mheagle85@gmail.com
731-609-1948

Co-Director of Programs

Ian Lucas KN4OEK
KN4OEK@gmail.com
901-828-6209

Co-Director of Programs

Ray Cole KX5RC
raycole@bellsouth.net
901-219-8468

Director of Meetings & Special Events

Scott Adams, KM4PMU
scottedadamsjr@hotmail.com
901-573-6280

Public Information Officer

Len Grice, W4MKS
W4MKS@arrl.net
901-522-6711

Immediate Past President

Ken Laseter, KI4AOH
KenLaseter@gmail.com
901-487-9103

Repeater Trustee

Barry McDonald W5CJ
W5CJ@ARRL.NET
901-853-0510

Upcoming Events

Huntsville Hamfest – August 21 – 22

MS Rockn' Bike Ride – September 11 – 12

BCB 100 Ride to Fight On – October 9

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

Tennessee Amateur Radio License Plate

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

As of October 2018, all you need to renew your ham tag is to provide a copy of your FCC license with a copy of your last year's registration or a renewal notice, if you received one, and your payment. The State of Tennessee is again making Amateur Radio License Plates since reconstruction of the building that was demolished by the tornado in Nashville in February 2020. The link below is for information and instructions about Tennessee ham radio call sign Emergency/Safety automobile license plates: [Vehicle Titling & Registration \(tn.gov\)](#) The application can be found at this link: Application for Special Amateur Radio License Plates ([tn.gov](#)) <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/revenue/documents/forms/titlereg/f1312601Fill-in.pdf>

Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

| Name of Net | Freq. MHz | Offset/Tone | Local Time | Day of Week |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Delta Club Information Net | 146.820 | - (107.2) | 8:00p | Daily |
| YL Net | 146.820 | - (107.2) | 8:45p | Sat |
| Mid-South Bullfrog Net | 146.535 | [simplex] | 7:30p | Daily |
| Elmer Net | 444.175 | + (107.2) | 9:00p | Sun |
| MedMERS Net | 146.820 | - (107.2) | 12:00p | Wed |
| ARES Training Net | 146.850 | - (107.2) | 9:00p | Thu |
| Sunday Super Niner Net | 927.6125 | - (146.2) | 8:30p | Sun |
| TN Statewide DMR Net | Digital – DMR | | 8:00 p | Friday |

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

DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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

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



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



Joe Miller
Owner

Chick-fil-A Paragon Place
6282 Poplar Avenue
At Poplar and Massey
Memphis, TN 38119
W - 901.766.1875
C - 901.230.3043
Joe.Miller@cfafranchisee.com
chick-fil-a.com