

# SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 103 \* August 2024



**Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)**

**Sparks Newsletter**

**Website: <http://deltaclub.org>**

**Facebook:**

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

## **W4BS**

### **REPEATER SYSTEM**

146.820 <sup>-107.2</sup>	147.360 <sup>+107.2</sup>
146.625 <sup>-107.2</sup>	443.200 <sup>+107.2</sup>
224.420 <sup>-107.2</sup>	443.700 <sup>+107.2*</sup>
144.390 Digipeater	<b>*Fusion</b>

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, August 13, 2024.

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.deltaclub.org> for detailed instructions on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is 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 5:30 pm in Room B202**
  - Antenna Analyzers by Ham Hilliard, W4GMM
- **Meeting Programs begin at 7:00 pm**
  - Lessons Learned from a Disaster Responder by Billy Freeman, WL4B
  - W4BS Repeaters – Splat Maps and Such by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

**VE 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](mailto:KW4RI@outlook.com)

## Announcements

### **HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 17, 2024**

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 17, 2024. The fare is \$120. 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 two Danver's ham, sausage or plain biscuit sandwiches, 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 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 the August 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 ham, sausage 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 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](http://www.hamfest.org).

### **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 day 9am-1pm. If interested in a class, send an email to [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number is text.

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2024.

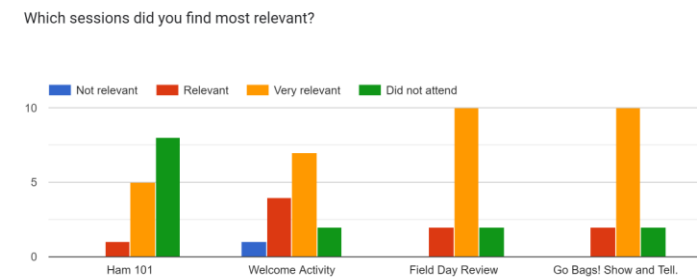
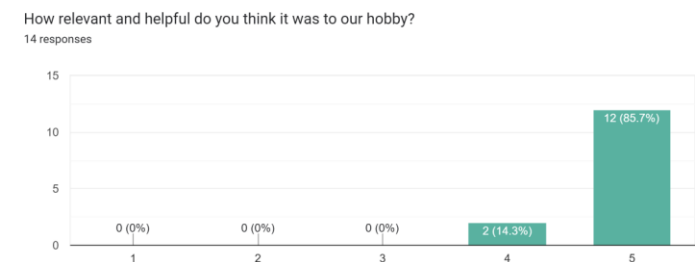
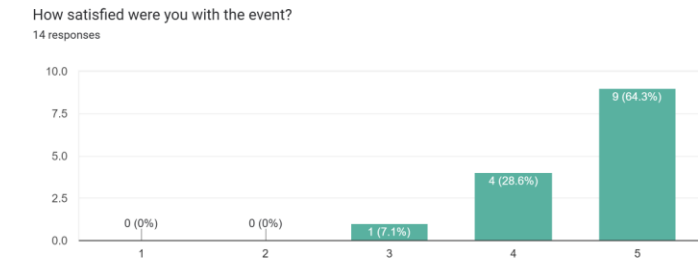
The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2025.

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025.

### **July Membership Meeting Signal Report**

I wanted to share the "Signal Report" from the meeting last month. We had 53 people on the sign in sheet and 14 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

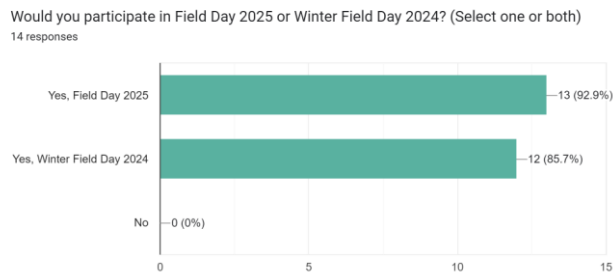
and bad. It gives us the opportunity to hear from you and respond. Our surveys allow us to quickly respond to things that are liked and things that are not liked. If we are doing something that is not getting good feedback we are committed to changing it and making it better. Please enjoy the results from last month below.  
Thank you.



## Additional Field Day Information

During last months meeting, based on the Field Day presentations, we asked those that attended if they would be interested in attending either the Winter Field Day or next years Field Day. Those that were in attendance responded that 13 would be interested in Field Day and 12 would be interested in Winter Field Day. Thank you to all that responded.

Please stay tuned for more information.



## New News and Articles from our Membership

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

As we start gathering momentum to head into the end of our year and back into the school season, I am looking forward to our bus trip coming up next weekend. I am sad to admit that this will be my first time to take the bus to Huntsville. I have heard so many good things about it and I am looking forward to it. Looking forward to the Hamfest and the time of fellowship and comrade provided by being on the bus together.

The tremendous weather that we have had this past week made for a wonderful opportunity to spend some time on a roof. I had the pleasure of assisting our club trustee Dan Fleek (AA4DF) with some maintenance tasks this past weekend at a club repeater site. The weather could not have been any better. We got to the roof and the temperature was a pleasant 70 degrees! It was fun to be able to assist with the “chores” to make sure that our club repeaters continue to service the Mid-South area.

As we head into the home stretch of the year I have been thinking about how to best ask for and hear the voice of our membership. I am very curious to hear from each and every one of you about what you would like to see the club do to finish this year as well as the year to come. Are you interested in “Fox Hunting,” POTA events, Program your HT days, build your own antennae, How to use FT8, How to setup Log Book of the World, are you wanting to step up your license, Get on HF for the first time, or any number of other items. One additional item that I would love to hear from you, our membership, about how to mentor or “Elmer” our new members. Our hobby has so many amazing things that we can do I am curious about how to best present the vastness to someone just joining our hobby. Please do let me know your thoughts.

Continuing from last months positive membership new let’s continue growing! Our hobby is a wonderful vast hobby that has many, many, aspects to it. Just like our membership is growing let’s keep growing in our hobby.

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

### Repeater Corner

I finally ordered and received a new Hustler G7-144b antenna. We needed to replace the old, damaged antenna on the APRS digipeater at Methodist North Hospital. Thankfully the bonus room at the house let me assemble and tune a 15-foot antenna. I then unscrewed some sections so I could get the antenna out of the house, up the elevator at North, and pulled up the side of the top section of the building.



Saturday, Joe and I headed out to Methodist North. Once everything was on the roof, Joe Plunk and I reassembled the antenna, mounted the antenna onto the pipe, and tilted it up to do a SWR test. Test SWR was 1.18. Awesome. We connected the hardline and I went down the ladder, into the elevator room and hooked up the analyzer. SWR was 5. What?! We swapped the hardline for the 220 repeater antenna and boom, 1.18 SWR. We connected the radio to the coax, powered it up and watched it beacon. Joe used his Kenwood TH-D74A to send out some APRS and we verified it on [aprs.fi](http://aprs.fi). A successful day fixing the

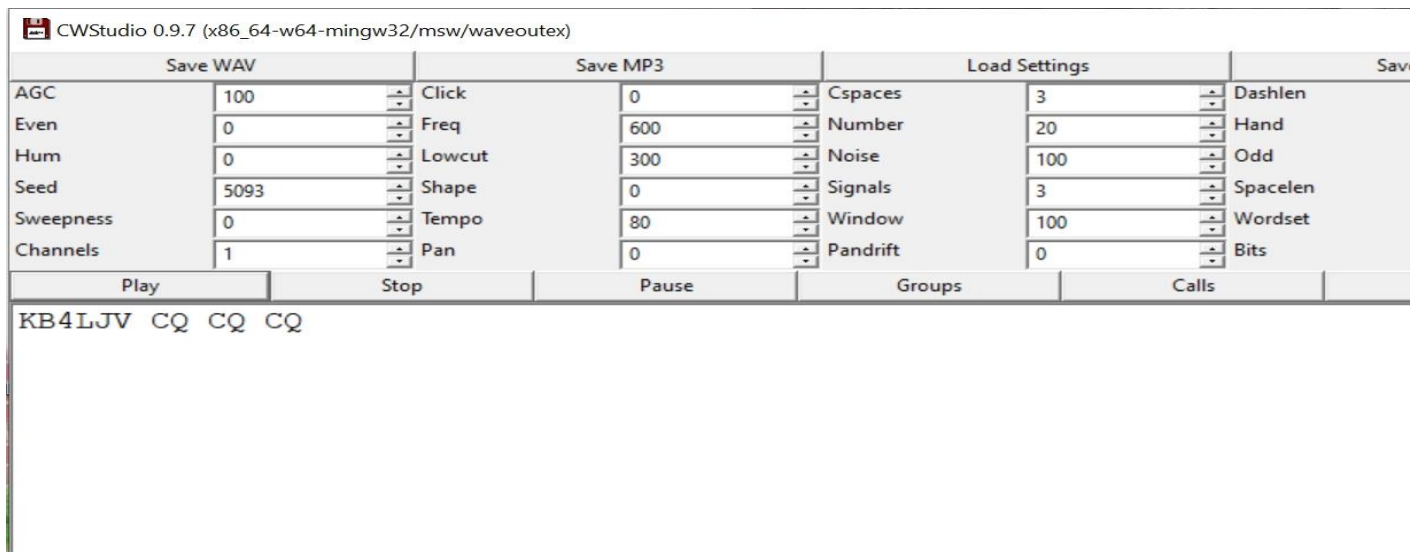
digipeater. We'll have another trip later to see if we can troubleshoot and repair the other hardline and get the 220 repeater back on the air. Thanks Joe Plunk for helping me out.

Dan Fleek AA4DF  
Repeater/Callsign Trustee

## PACKET UPDATE

Many amateurs practice Morse code to improve their ability to copy and improve speed. One nice program for your computer that will allow you to do this is “CWStudio”. This is a free program developed to allow you to practice Morse code using simulated conditions you will encounter while operating on your radio. Versions of this program will run on Windows and Mac computers. The software is small and does not require an install. You can type in your own text to be sent or use the program to play a text file. The program is adjustable for receiver noise and other stations on frequency which makes this a perfect simulation for real world conditions you will encounter. The program will also allow you to save an MP3 audio file to playback later. If you want to do Morse code practice with realistic audio try “CWStudio”. The web address is <https://cwstudio.sourceforge.net/#/>

James Butler  
KB4LJV



## AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

When we operate older Heathkit QRP or modern QRP rigs audio output can be low. They are normally made to run a set of headphones for operation. If we can add an audio amplifier we can get a louder volume on our headphones or even run a speaker. The LM386 chip can be used to amplify audio. This chip can be bought in a module that is completely built and ready to hook up. A super small version of the amplifier can be installed inside the QRP rig. Slightly larger versions have different connectors for the audio in, audio out, and power supply. These LM386 based amplifiers operate on 3 to 12 volts DC. On Ebay they have many different versions of the LM386 amplifier. To find the style you want, just do a search for “LM386 audio amplifier module”.

James Butler  
KB4LJV



## DARC Directors 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@deltacub.org](mailto:treasurer@deltacub.org) with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

**LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS**

June 29, 2024 through July 31, 2024

**SUMMARY**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$21,835.11</b>	Minimum Daily Balance	\$21,201
Deposits & Credits	\$529.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$21,471
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$638.25 -		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$21,725.86</b>		

**DEPOSITS & CREDITS**

07/01	Deposit - Thank You	5.00
07/24	Deposit - Thank You	399.00
07/30	Deposit - Thank You	125.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$529.00

**CHECKS**

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
07/02	1621	174.69	07/10	1624	102.00
07/10	1623 *	200.00	07/09	1626 *	161.56
Total Checks					\$638.25

\* Break In Check Number Sequence.

**DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY**

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
07/01	21,840.11	07/09	21,503.86	07/24	21,600.86
07/02	21,665.42	07/10	21,201.86	07/30	21,725.86

<b>Applications Received -July 2024</b>		
(4) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$65.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(3) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$60.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	<b>Total Dues Received</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>
<b>Other Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		
(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
2024 Huntsville Hamfest - Bus Fares Received		\$399.00
ARRL Commission from 12/27/2023		\$5.00
	<b>Total Other Deposits</b>	<b>\$404.00</b>
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$529.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals</b>		
None		\$0.00
	<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Checks</b>		
Check #1621 - Joe Plunk - Reimbursement for renewal of annual Zoom Video subscription		\$174.69
Check #1623 - Donation to Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary		\$200.00
Check #1624 - Joe Lowenthal - Reimbursement for reservation of two Huntsville Hamfest tables and one admission.		\$102.00
Check #1626 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for club meeting refreshments		\$161.56
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$638.25</b>

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,236.91	5.020 %	\$129.18	\$52.69
<a href="#">SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</a>			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$64.25	\$107.73	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	5/25/2024	1/22/2025	
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,437.52	2.230 %	\$189.47	\$6.27
<div>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</div> <div>*8503</div>			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$63.24	\$248.05	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	7/28/2024	11/26/2024	
<div>▲ Hide More Details</div>			

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

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - August 6, 2024

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - August 6, 2024

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Meetings and Special Events, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV (actively serving in the military), Public Information Officer Adam White K4SPB, Immediate Past President Ty McMahan KQ4MQ.

Guests: None

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on August 6, 2024, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

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

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joe said he was looking forward to the Huntsville bus trip.

Secretary Perry Hayes asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 2024 DARC Membership Meeting, as circulated to the BOD by email, and the July 2024 BOD Meeting Minutes, as published in *Sparks*. Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Perry Hayes and Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the membership applications that had been received since the July BOD meeting. Perry Hayes made a motion to approve all of the membership applications, which was seconded by Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Jim Martin presented the Treasurer's Report. Jim reported that the DARC's charitable organization status with the State of Tennessee was up to date. Jim said he is still waiting to hear from the State regarding DARC's tax exempt status for purchases.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Perry Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Martin said no regular bills would be due in August. Jim said he anticipated expenditures for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. Joe Plunk asked if the expenditures were expected to exceed the \$3,000 which is budgeted for the trip. Jim said he did not expect the expenditures to exceed \$3,000, but asked for comments from Joe Lowenthal. Joe Lowenthal said that he did not expect the expenditures to be over \$3,000 and he expected to have a little surplus.

Director of Programs John Reiners presented the program topics for the August DARC Membership Meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek reported that the APRS antenna at Methodist North was beyond repair, so he purchased a new one. Dan said that the 220 antenna at Methodist North was taken apart and reassembled. The SWR on the 220 antenna is good, but Dan may need to replace the N connector.

Dan Fleek reported that the 146.82 repeater is still experiencing intermittent noise. He would like to examine the Brunswick repeater site when the repeater is having noise issues. Dan would also like to test and see if he can create any mechanical noise on the repeater. A former Trustee told Dan about some mechanical noise at the repeater site.

Dan said he paid for the APRS antenna himself, and would seek reimbursement from the Club. Joe Plunk said the funds should come from the Repeater line item in the budget.

Joe Plunk said that the Bylaws Committee had no report at this time. Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, is still looking for members to serve on the committee.

In new topics, Joe Plunk reminded the BOD that Friday (August 9th) was the deadline to submit items to be published in the August edition of *Sparks*. Joe said he was still working with Mike Harrison on streamlining the format of the newsletter. Joe also said that he would like the BOD members to contribute articles to *Sparks*.

Joe Lowenthal reported on the DARC's plans for the Huntsville Hamfest. The bus trip is fully funded. Approximately 21 riders have registered and paid their fare. There was also a substantial gift toward the bus trip from an anonymous donor. An additional \$200 was donated last year, and carried over to this year. DARC will have 2 tables at the Hamfest, near the back door.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church at 6:30am on August 17th. The bus will leave Huntsville after the grand prize drawing, and arrive back in Germantown around 7:45pm.

Joe Plunk asked if the DARC will be selling items at the Hamfest. Joe Lowenthal said that the club would be selling items. Joe Lowenthal and his volunteers will inventory the remaining items and create a spreadsheet. The items themselves will be sorted and placed in bins for transport to Huntsville. Volunteers are needed to help with the transport of DARC's sale items. Volunteers are also needed to work DARC's tables at the Hamfest. Anyone interested should contact Joe Lowenthal.

Joe Plunk said that he was willing to help any BOD members that need training on the Club's Google Workspace.

Joe Plunk also said that he and John Reiners will discuss the Field Day responses from the *Signal Report* survey.

Joe Plunk reported that many of the BOD members who agreed to evaluate the HamClubOnline software suite have been out of town during the summer. Work on the evaluation will resume when these members become available.

A BOD member needed to be excused during the meeting, so President Joe Plunk asked Secretary Perry Hayes to call the roll again. Present were: Joe Plunk, Perry Hayes, Dan Fleek, Jim Martin, Joe Lowenthal, John Reiners and Scott Adams.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Jim Martin made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:13pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024 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  
July 9, 2024

The July 2024 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 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 53 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, called the roll of the Board of Directors (BOD). Perry declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk announced that Vice-President Tyler Henley and Public Information Officer (PIO) Adam White had recently joined the BOD. There was a round of applause for Tyler and Adam. Joe reminded the membership about the raffle tickets that are collected at each meeting. Joe also recognized everyone who passed their FCC amateur radio license exams during the evening's testing session.

In business matters, Joe Plunk asked for a motion to approve the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report. Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in the July issue of *Sparks*. There was a second by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk gave each BOD member an opportunity to make a report.

Joe Plunk made some comments about Field Day, and how much he had enjoyed it. Joe also asked everyone to complete a *Signal Report* survey.

Secretary Perry Hayes had no additional matters to report.

Secretary Jim Martin, KD4FUU, said that three new membership applications and one renewal application had already been submitted at the meeting. Jim thanked Randy Redd, KQ4HJH, and the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary for hosting the monthly DARC membership meetings, and for providing classroom space for amateur radio license testing and the Ham 101 class. Jim presented Randy with a donation of \$200 from DARC to the Seminary. Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, said he would welcome ideas for future programs.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, had no additional matters to report.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that 9 students were enrolled in the current Technician Class License Class. Two of the students passed their Technician exams earlier in the evening. Joe said that riders were needed for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 17th, and reminded everyone that the fare would go up to \$120 on August 1st. Joe also discussed a ham radio presentation he made at the Collierville library on June 15th.

Joe Plunk said he was looking forward to the bus trip, and encouraged everyone to register as soon as possible.

Club Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4D4, reported that he is now on record with the FCC as the DARC Repeater Trustee. Dan said that the intermittent noise on the 146.82 repeater has improved, and the repeater is receiving well.

Dan reported that he is doing some RF modeling and analysis of the Methodist North repeater site. He asked for volunteers to help take down the antenna on top of Methodist North to examine the connector, and to take down the 220 antenna to inspect it for damage. Dan thanked Barry McDonald, W5CJ, for his assistance.

Public Information Officer (PIO) Adam White, K4SPB, encouraged everyone to share any pictures or videos they have of club activities, especially Field Day.

Joe Plunk said that the Bylaws Committee had no matters to report. Joe encouraged anyone who is interested in serving on the committee to contact Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB. He also encouraged anyone who is interested in serving on the repeater committee to contact Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, moderated the evening's programs, which focused on Field Day.

Carolyn Horne, KX4QF, gave a presentation about her Field Day CW station. She discussed her preparations for the event, as well as the setup, operation and takedown of the station.

John Reiners presented a slideshow of photographs from Field Day. He highlighted and commented on the various stations that were operating. John said that W4BS made 460 contacts (200 CW, 52 Digital, and 208 Phone) and earned 712 points during the event.

John Reiners and Joe Plunk showed maps that displayed the contacts that were made by our Field Day stations and the propagation of our signals. There was a discussion about the success of the GOTA station.

After a break, John Reiners gave a presentation on Go Bags. John discussed the use of Go Bags for amateur radio, as well as other hobbies and potential emergency situations. John talked about items that could be included in Go Bags, and gave examples of bags available on the market.

Joe Plunk reminded everyone to complete a *Signal Report* survey before leaving the meeting.

There being no further business, Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Ham Hilliard made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dennis Foster, KD4BDU. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, adjourned the meeting at 8:24pm.

The next regular Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ  
Secretary

## **Delta Ham License Training, 2024**

**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](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with the class name; ie, Tech Class, General Class, or Extra Class, on the Subject line and name, callsign if you have one, email address, and cellphone number in the text.*

### *Licenses Earned in 2024 from Delta Classes*

17 Technician

2 General

3 Extra

#### **Note:**

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

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

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

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

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

## PROPOSED CLASSES

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

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

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2024.

The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2025.

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025.

## CURRENT CLASSES

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

An in-person Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights on July 8, 15, 22, 29 August 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 to Tech Class 3-24  
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The last class will be demonstrations on FM Repeater Basics, satellite operations, APRS, and FM digital operations. The classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO. The equipment demonstrators are Rick WA4NVM on satellites, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS, John KN4BVH on FM digital radios and Joe WA4OVO on repeater basics.

## PREVIOUS CLASSES

### Tech Class 2-24 – February 22 – March 23, 2024

A hybrid Technician license class was held on five Thursday nights on February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21 from 6:15-9:30pm and one Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am-1:00PM. The first four classes were via Zoom. The 5<sup>th</sup> in-person class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. The two in-person classes were at the MPD Appling Farms Precinct. Eleven students and one audit finished the class.

Congratulations to Dan Strahl KQ4PTW for testing early at TARS/Atoka meeting and earning his Technician and General licenses, Congratulations to Kunal Ashok KQ4QFI, Chuck Baker KQ4QFJ, Jason Beaver KQ4QFK, Tyler Henley KQ4TFL, Avery Knowlton KQ4QEZ, Cindy Knowlton KQ4QFM, Steffanie Roland KQ4QFR, Srinivas Sompalli KQ4QGM, and Neil Taylor KQ4QGL. At FreeFest testing Avery upgraded to General and Extra and changed call to KZ4FW. Srinivas also upgraded to General.



Tech Class 2-24 testing



Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF  
on JO-97 Satellite demo

The instructors were Paul Roberts KA4X, Park Dodge AI5CY, Paul Broom KY4MX, John Reiners KN4BVH, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Steve Frazier KK4VPT, Carolyn Horne KX4QF and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

The sixth in-person class was equipment demonstrations on analog repeater basics, Amateur Packet Reporting System (APRS), satellite operations and possible contact, and basic FM digital concepts of D-STAR, Fusion, DMR and Echolink operations.



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS demo



John KN4BVH on Digital Basics

The equipment demonstration team was Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites, Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS, John Reiners KN4BVH on FM digital radio basics, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on analog repeater basics and Echolink.

### **Extra Class 1-24 – January 6 – February 17, 2024**

An Extra Class license class is being held on six Saturdays on January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 10 & 17. (The February 3<sup>rd</sup> date is the Jackson MS hamfest.) There will be five Zoom instructional periods with the sixth one an in-person opportunity to take the FCC exam on the last date. The eight students are Robert KN4OEP, Reggie KJ4FER, Ric KK4SZO, Stacy KJ4MDA, Loy KQ4LPM, Stuart KQ4KIH, Jay KJ5CFY and Jeff KQ4KII.

The instructors are Joe WA4OVO, John KN4BVH, Joe NS4E, David KY4FH, Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, Park AI5CY, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF and Bobby KD5BS.

The Delta Club ARRL VE team will provide the FCC exam session.

### **General Class 4-23 – November 6 – December 11, 2023**

An in-person General Class license class was held on five Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm from November 6<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup> at Semmes-Murphey Clinic training room, 6305 Humphreys Blvd, Memphis 38120. The dates were November 6, 13, 27, December 4 and 11.

The first four classes were instructional with the fifth class the opportunity to take the FCC exam.

There were eight students in the class-Jeff KQ4KKS, Sean KQ4KNI, James KQ4GGX, Jack KN4FDK, Bill KQ4DTS, Loy KQ4LPM, Jay KJ5CFY, and Julian KO4ZPS.



General Class 4-23



Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Ken KI4AOH, Barry W5CJ, Joe NS4E, John KN4VBH, Paul KA4X and Joe WA4OVO.

The Delta ARRL VE Team headed by Bob KW4RJ provided the FCC test session on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Semmes-Murphrey Clinic.

General Class 4-23 FCC Test Session  
Photo by Joe Plunk NS4E



# 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.

## ARRL Benefits

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

- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and QEX. QST is the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and, on the air, QEX covering topics related to radio communications experimentation, and National Contest Journal (NCJ), covering radio contesting.
- Access to ARRL's Technical Information Service to assist with technical problems and help with your projects.

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

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

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

### YL News Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

The YL Net is every Saturday at 8:45 pm on the 146.820 W4BS repeater, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. The secondary frequency is on the 443.700 W4BS repeater, which has a +5 MHz offset and 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!

## 2024 Board of Directors

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[NS4E@access-tech.com](mailto:NS4E@access-tech.com)  
901-491-2755

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[ghenley@southaven.org](mailto:ghenley@southaven.org)  
901-827-5859

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[PIO@deltacub.org](mailto:PIO@deltacub.org)  
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[KX4MQ@icloud.com](mailto:KX4MQ@icloud.com)  
901-833-7119

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Dan Fleek, AA4DF  
[AA4DF@arrl.net](mailto:AA4DF@arrl.net)  
901-491-3192

## 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

Huntsville Hamfest – August 17th  
 Bluff City Blues Ride – October 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Trumann Hamfest – October 26<sup>th</sup>

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)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Info Net (Primary)	146.82	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
YL Info Net (Secondary)	443.7	+(107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Crittenden ARO	147.15	+ (107.2)	7:30p	Sunday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.91	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.82	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
Tipton ARS	145.49	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday
Crittenden ARO	442.4	+ (107.2)	8:00p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
OBARC Linked	444.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
ARES Training Net	146.85	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00p	Friday
Four-Forty Net	443.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Neshoba Club Info Net	146.625	- (107.2)	8:30p	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday

## TENNESSEE HF NETS

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

(Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)

### 3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

Mon-Fri - 5:40 AM, 6:45 AM & **5:30 PM** (5:30 pm beginning Nov. 9 evening)

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM

Sunday - 8:00 AM only

Holidays - 8:00 AM only

## DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



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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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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