

# SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 85 \* February 2023



**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	*Fusion

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at the Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Highway 70 in Bartlett, TN (1 ½ miles north of Highway 64 / Stage Road).

There will be FCC Testing Tuesday night.

**Program:** "CQ, CQ, CQ – Introduction to CW" by Carolyn Horne, KX4QF

**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:

Bob Vawter, KW4RJ, VE Liaison

Phone: 901-438-4563

Email: [KW4RJ@ARRL.net](mailto:KW4RJ@ARRL.net)

## Announcements

### **MARA FreeFest – April 8, 2023**

**SAVE THE DATE:** The Mid-South Amateur Radio Association (MARA)'s annual FreeFest will be Saturday, April 8, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Bartlett Station Municipal

Center, 5868 Stage Road in Bartlett, TN. The webpage for FreeFest can be found at: [maraonline.org/freefest](http://maraonline.org/freefest). More information will also be announced at a closer date.

### ARRL Membership Thru the Delta Club

Renew your ARRL membership thru the club. Bring or mail your completed ARRL application with cash, check or money order (no credit card). You can renew prior to expiration; the new term will extend from your current expiration date. [ARRL-Membership-Application.pdf](#)

### Club Polo Shirt Order

We will submit another Delta Club polo shirt order in February. See the graphic below for available sizes and prices. If you would like to order an embroidered club polo shirt, email Mary Jean Hall KY4FB at [ky4fb.tn@gmail.com](mailto:ky4fb.tn@gmail.com) or call/text at 901-356-1475. If your size is available to order, money will be due by the Delta Club meeting on Tuesday, February 14. Cash or checks will be accepted; make checks out to: Delta Amateur Radio Club. If your size is not yet available, still sign up and your money will not be due until it is possible to place the order. If you would like to place an order for a shirt but cannot make the meeting, let Mary Jean know so alternative arrangements can be made.

#### **CornerStone® - Select Snag-Proof Tactical Polo**

Pricing: Price includes embroidered DARC logo with name/call sign

XS-XL:	\$41
2XL:	\$43
3XL:	\$47
4XL:	\$49

In the CS410: Small, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL and 5XL are out of stock.  
The CS411 is all in stock.

#### **CS410 (Mens cut)**



With strategically placed mic clips and dual pen pockets, our tactical polo is designed for event staff, security and law enforcement. Built for performance, this snag-proof, moisture-wicking, odor fighting shirt will keep you sharp and professional looking on or off the job.

- 6.6-ounce snag-proof polyester
- Rental friendly
- Traditional, relaxed look
- Tag-free label
- Flat knit collar
- 3-button placket with dyed-to-match buttons
- Mic clips at center placket and shoulders
- Raglan sleeves
- Reinforced dual pen pockets on left sleeve
- Side vents

Email Mary Jean KY4FB at [ky4fb.tn@gmail.com](mailto:ky4fb.tn@gmail.com) if you are interested in ordering a polo.

*Color pictured: Royal*

## CS411 (Ladies cut)



### Product Description

With strategically placed mic clips and dual pen pockets, our tactical polo is designed for event staff, security and law enforcement. Built for performance, this snag-proof, moisture-wicking, odor-fighting shirt will keep you sharp and professional-looking on or off the job.

- 6.6-ounce snag-proof polyester
- Rental friendly
- Tag-free label
- Flat knit collar
- 3-button placket
- Dyed-to-match buttons
- Mic clips at center placket and shoulders
- Raglan sleeves
- Reinforced dual pen pockets on left sleeve
- Side vents
- Drop tail to stay tucked in

## **Turkey Emergency Communications**

Turkey and the IARU have requested clear communications on the “designated primary disaster communications frequency is 28.540 Mhz(USB). In addition, 3.777 and 7.092 MHz will be used as needed”.

### **President's Corner**

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

Quite a bit has happened since our January meeting, and it feels like so long ago! We had several volunteers help with communications for the Swamp Stompers race on January 14, and thankfully everything went well! Thank you to all who helped!

Starting this month, you may notice a slight change in the appearance or delivery method of the SPARKS newsletter. The Board of Directors is working on finding a more efficient way to send out the monthly SPARKS newsletter and other important news. Be sure to save [DeltaClubW4BS@gmail.com](mailto:DeltaClubW4BS@gmail.com) as a trusted email address.

Save the date for the Mid-South Amateur Radio Association (MARA)'s annual Memphis FreeFest, which is Saturday, April 8, 2023 from 9am to 3 pm at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center. FreeFest is exactly what the name implies – FREE! There is no charge for vendors to have a table, and admittance is free! Each person attending gets one free door prize ticket! Additional tickets will be available to purchase for hourly prizes and all the ticket sales are donated to LeBonheur Children's Hospital. For as long as I have been in Delta Club, and likely a lot longer, we have donated one of the main prizes. This year the board decided that Delta Club will donate a 20 AHr LiFePO4 Bioenno battery with charger. As we get closer to the event, MARA members will have tickets available for sale. I look forward to personally pitching in some money for a good cause, and I hope you consider it if you are in a spot to do so, as well.

If you want to learn CW but are not sure how to get started, don't miss out on this month's Delta Club meeting! Carolyn Horne KX4QF will present this month's program, which is an introduction to CW. I look forward to learning all about it!

See you all Tuesday!

73,  
Mary Jean KY4FB

**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 38184-2768**

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](mailto:kd4fuu@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

**LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS**

December 31, 2022 through January 31, 2023

**SUMMARY**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$19,668.46</b>	Minimum Daily Balance	\$19,421
Deposits & Credits	\$796.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$19,571
Withdrawals	\$200.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$151.94 -		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$20,112.52</b>		

**DEPOSITS & CREDITS**

01/04	Deposit - Thank You	105.00
01/30	Deposit - Thank You	571.00
01/30	Deposit - Thank You	120.00
Total Deposits & Credits		<u>\$796.00</u>

**WITHDRAWALS**

01/05	Rsc Insurance Br Risk-Strat James Martin M64135810524	200.00
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**CHECKS**

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
01/24	1577	35.00	01/17	1581 *	22.20
01/17	1579 *	94.74			
Total Checks					<u>\$151.94</u>

\* Break In Check Number Sequence.

**DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY**

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
01/04	19,773.46	01/17	19,456.52	01/30	20,112.52
01/05	19,573.46	01/24	19,421.52		

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,025.01	1.980 %	\$25.01	\$2.73
<a href="#">SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</a> *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$25.01	\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	1/28/2023	11/25/2023	
<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>
\$11,062.00	2.230 %	\$62.00	\$6.76
<a href="#">SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</a> *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$62.00	\$0.00	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	1/28/2023	11/26/2024	
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

**Applications Received - January 2023**

(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues	\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived	\$0.00
(2) New Membership(s)	\$40.00
(20) Membership Renewal(s)	\$405.00
(2) Donations Received	\$205.00

**Total Dues  
Received \$650.00**

**Other Deposits & Credits**

(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)	\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)	\$0.00
December Membership Dues	\$105.00
(1) Club Polo Shirt Order	\$41.00

**Total Other  
Deposits \$146.00**

**Total Deposits \$796.00**

**Checks & Debits**

eCheck - Club Liability Insurance Premium - 2023	\$200.00
Check # 1577 - Southeastern Repeater Association Membership	\$35.00
Check # 1579 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for Dec. Potluck	\$94.74
Check # 1580 - Void	\$0.00
Check # 1581 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for Club Meeting Snacks	\$22.20

**Total Payments \$351.94**

## Proposed 2023 Delta Club Budget Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU

Proposed Budget	2022	2023
Donations (cash)	50	50
Consignment Donated Gear	0	0
Membership (Jan. thru Dec.)	2000	2000
Club Patches	0	0
Estate Sale	1500	1500
Advertisement	0	0
Huntsville Trip	2500	2500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>6,050</b>
Tn. Annual Report	-120	-120
Meeting Space Donation	-300	-300
Training	-50	-50
Meeting Refreshments	-500	-500
Food (Dec. Meeting)	-100	-100
Door Prize	-500	-500
PO Box (Annual Rental)	-290	-312
Equipment Insurance	-220	-236
Club Liability Insurance		-200
Repeater System Upgrades	-1000	-1000
SouthEastern Repeater Assn.	-35	-35
Field Day	-250	-250
DARC Board Discretionary Fund	-1000	-1000
Huntsville Trip	-3000	-3000
Free Fest Donations	-200	-250
<b>Projected Total Expenses</b>	<b>-7,565</b>	<b>-7,853</b>
<b>Projected Net Operating Results (income-expenses)</b>		
Checking Acct:	19,068.00	20,112.52
CD #0228	10,785.00	0.00
CD #8041	0.00	0.00
CD #8481	0.00	5,025.01
CD #8503	0.00	11,062.00



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

**Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX**

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2023

*Attendees: Mary Jean Hall KY4FB, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Paul Broom KY4MX, Jim Martin KD4FUU, Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, Mike Harrison KM4MRW, John Reiners KN4BVH, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Barry McDonald W5CJ and Len Grice W4MKS.*

*Absent: None*

*Guests: None.*

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. President Mary Jean Hall called the meeting to order.

Mary Jean Hall asked if the February meeting should be held in person only given the current health environment in the community. It was decided to proceed with an in-person only meeting, with no objections. She also informed the BOD that the Zoom license is up for renewal in April and opened a discussion on whether or not to renew it. While Zoom is not currently used for member meetings, it is being used for BOD meetings, ARES meetings, and licensing classes. After discussion it was decided to renew the license for this year and re-evaluate next year. Lastly, she indicated that ARRL website had been updated with the new officer roster.

Mike Harrison brought up a change in the email management system, Mail Chimp, which is used for club related email distributions. The club has been utilizing the free version of this service, but has been notified that the volume of emails sent by the club will require a change to a paid version which is estimated to be approximately \$320 per year. After discussion it was decided to try and utilize the club's Gmail account for this month's distributions to see if that is a viable option. The Gmail account is currently free. He also indicated that he has all the updated officer profiles and will be updating that information on the Deltaclub.org website.

Jim Martin presented the revised proposed budget to the BOD. After discussion, Joe Lowenthal moved to accepted the budget as revised, Barry McDonald seconded the motion, with the motion passing. He also reviewed the January Treasurer's report.

Joe Lowenthal announced that he would be beginning a Technician class on Monday February 27. The class will meet on Mondays from 6:15 to 9:30 pm and will run for 6 weeks. The first 4 classes will be conducted via Zoom, the 5<sup>th</sup> class will be the in-person exam review and testing, and the final class being the in-person equipment demonstrations. He also gave an update on the current Extra class, indicating that there are 3 sessions remaining, with one student already testing and passing the exam. He has also listed some of the equipment for sale in the NAQCC Swap & Shop newsletter that was just published and has already begun receiving inquiries.

Scott Adams indicated that he will planning for more tables and chairs at the next meeting.

John Reiners informed that Carolyn Horne will giving a presentation on Introduction to CW during the February meeting. He is also planning to have a presentation on Parks on the Air (POTA) at the March meeting.

Barry McDonald stated that he will be renewing the W4BS license near the end of the year. He also said that there was currently no construction happening at the Brunswick repeater site said the repeaters are running smoothly. The 146.82 repeater had a very good SWR report.

Mike Harrison reported that he is finalizing Sparks for this month's publication and that he will be including announcements regarding the ARRL membership rebate program for clubs and the upcoming Polo shirt order.

Len Grice had nothing to report.

Perry Hayes had nothing to report.

Paul Broom presented 3 new member and 22 renewal applications for approval. He made a motion to accept these new member and renewal applications, with John Reiners seconding the motion. The motion passed. He will also be issuing letters of appreciation for recent donations to the club.

Mary Jean Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm. The next regular Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Broom KY4MX, Secretary

## **Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting** Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

DARC Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2023

### **Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Ellendale Church of Christ, with the President serving as chair in-person and the Secretary being present. Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB called the meeting to order and then welcomed everyone to the meeting. At least 41 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." Ken Laseter KI4AOH seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by the club without objection.

### **Announcements**

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB took a roll call of those present in-person. She also announced that the Club would re-establish the membership drawings with prizes to be awarded during the November meeting. Each person present is to sign one ticket at each meeting attended with their name and call sign for the drawing.

Steve Frazier KK4VPT announced that the Club would be supporting the Swamp Stompers event on January 14th. He indicated that it is a small event, and that he had the needed volunteers but that everyone is welcome to attend. The race starts at 7:30am and will be using the 146.82 repeater for race related communications. Contact Steve for additional information.

Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO announced that an Extra class with 8 students started on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The class meets on Saturdays and ends on February 25<sup>th</sup>, with no class being held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. He also announced that a Technician class will possibly start in mid to late February and will run for 6 Monday nights. Anyone interested should email Joe at [WA4OVO@gmail.com](mailto:WA4OVO@gmail.com) with their name and phone number. Joe also explained the ARRL membership rebate program for clubs. Anyone interested should complete the ARRL membership application and send to the club along

with a check for payment of dues. The club will then forward the application to the ARRL. The rebate is \$15 for each new ARRL member, and \$5 for ARRL renewals.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB indicated that she would be placing orders for club tactical polo shirts in February. Sizes, pricing and availability are published in the January edition of Sparks. Checks should be made payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club and brought to the February meeting. There is no minimum order requirement so future orders can be made as other sizes become available.

Rick Tillman WA4NVM gave an update on this year's Freefest which will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Bartlett Municipal Center from 9:00 to 3:00. All proceeds from drawing ticket sales go to Le Bonheur. All food sales go to cover the cost of renting the facility. Volunteers are needed for set up and take down. MARA is the sponsor.

Bob Vawter KW4RJ said there was testing before the meeting and three passed the Technician exam.

Ham Hilliard W4GMM announced that a Winter Field Day event will be held at the Fire Academy in Millington on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Ham can be reached via email at [w4gmm@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4gmm@bellsouth.net) for additional information.

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB formally presented the New Ham of the Year award to Will Tenney KO4TLY. The award was announced during the December meeting.

There was a short 5–10-minute break and the meeting resumed at approximately 7:42 PM.

During the break, the Board met briefly to discuss making a donation to Freefest. A proposal to budget up to \$250 to purchase an item to donate for the drawing was unanimously approved.

### **Discussion / Program**

John Reiners KN4BVH gave a presentation on DMR for Dummies.

An interesting Q&A followed.

### **Closing Remarks**

Mary Jean Hall KY4FB thanked Steve Frazier KK4VPT for recording the meeting. The Board will continue to monitor health conditions but is currently planning to go forward with in-person only meetings that will be recorded. The videos will be posted to the Club's YouTube page, with links provided at the Club Facebook page.

Delta Club President Mary Jean Hall KY4FB adjourned the meeting at 8:24 PM.

The next Delta Amateur Radio Club meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM in-person only.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Broom, Secretary (2023)

## **Delta Ham License Training, 2022**

**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 2023 from Delta Classes*

0 Technician

0 General

1 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 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. *This question pool will expire on June 30, 2023,***

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

## PROPOSED CLASSES

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

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

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2023

### **Tech Class 2-23 – February 27 – April 3, 2023**

A Technician license class is being planned for six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are seven students registered. We need ten students to have a class. The first four classes are via Zoom. The fifth and sixth classes are in-person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). The fifth class will be a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The sixth class is for equipment demonstrations.

## CURRENT CLASS

### **Extra Class 1-23 – January 7 – February 25, 2023**

An Extra Class license class is being held for seven Saturdays from 9am to 1pm from January 7<sup>th</sup> to February 25<sup>th</sup> except January 28<sup>th</sup>. There are eight students in the class. The first six classes are via Zoom with the seventh period an in-class opportunity to take the FCC exam. Congratulations to Peter Finch K1EXR who passed his exam at the Port City ARC test session on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The instructors are Joe WA4OVO, John KN4BVH, David KY4FH, Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X, Pat W4OQG, Park AI5CY and Bobby KD5BS. The FCC exam session will be at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave) at 10 am.

## COMPLETED CLASSES

### **General Class 5-22 – November 7 – December 5, 2022**

A General Class license class was held for five Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm from November 7<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup>. The first four classes were via Zoom with the fifth class in person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). The ARRL FCC exam was offered on the fifth night of class. There were 13 students registered for the class. Seven students completed the class with only four testing.

Congratulations to Davis Colston K5TGR, Bob O'Gradr KO4ZCJ and Will Tenney KO4TLY for upgrading to General.



General Class 5-22 ARRL FCC test session

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Paul KA4X, Barry W5CJ, Len W4MKS, Park AI5CY and David KY4FH.

The Delta Club ARRL VE Team of Bob KW4RJ, Mary Jean KY4FB, Perry N4GJ, Bob AI4GI and Joe WA4OVO provided the opportunity for FCC testing.



General Class 5-22 VEs

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

### **Tech Class 4-22 – July 7 – August 18, 2022**

A Technician license class was held from July 7<sup>th</sup> to August 18<sup>th</sup> on six Thursday nights from 6:15-9:30pm excluding August 4<sup>th</sup>. The first four classes were via Zoom with the fifth and sixth classes in person at Ellendale Church of Christ, 7365 Hwy 70 (Summer Ave). Nine students began the classes with seven completing the instructional period. The FCC exam was offered on the fifth night of class, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to all four students who earned their Technician license: David Colston KI5WQA, Morgan Fancher KI5WQL, Ilea Hymes KQ4CQF and Rod Robinson KQ4CNU. Thanks to Laurel VE team of Joe WA4OVO, Bob AI4GI, Jeff AJ4GY, Perry N4GJ, Rick WA4NVM and Mary Jean KY4FB.

The four students took the opportunity to obtain an Explorer QRZ-1 dual band 2m/70cm radio after they got their licenses.





Tech Class 4-22 Testing

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO



Three of the Laurel VEs grading the exams: left to right-Bob AI4GI, Jeff AJ4GY and Perry N4GJ. Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The sixth night was equipment demonstrations on FM Radio Basics by Joe WA4OVO, Satellite contact by Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF, APRS by Joe WA4OVO, and digital radios by John KN4BVH.

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA4X, Pat W4OQG, Steve KK4VPT, David KY4FH and John KN4BVH.

### **Tech Class 2-22 – February 28 – April 4, 2022**

A Technician license class began on February 28th for six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm. The first four classes were via Zoom. The class began with 15 students. Eleven students finished the four instructional classes with two students out of town. The fifth class was in-person with a review of the 421 questions and answers in the question pool as well as an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The Equipment Demonstration sixth class was given in person on April 4th.

Congratulations to Frank Barton KI5UJH (now KI5FGB), Charlie Cole KO4ZCF, Matt Coolican KO4ZCG, Bob Garrelts KI5UJI, Billy Griffin KO4ZCH, Keith Miller kO4ZCI, Bob O'Grady KO4UCJ, and Kyle Turlington KI5UJJ for earning their Technician licenses. Congratulations to Sandra West KO4ZLM for earning her Technician license on April 8<sup>th</sup> who tested with Chattanooga ARC. The two locals will test at a later date. Additional congratulations to Frank Barton KI5UJH and Billy Griffin KO4ZCH for also upgrading to General.

Thanks to the Laurel VE team of Joe WA4OVO, Jeff AJ4GY, Barry W5CJ, David KY4FH, Bob AI4GI and Rick WA4NVM for being the VEs.



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS Demo  
Photo by Joe WA4OVO



John KN4BVH on Digital Demos  
Photo by Joe WA4OVO



Rick WA4NVM on F0-29 contact with Tech Class 2-22



Photos by Joe WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe WA4OVO, Paul KA9VAU, Perry N4GJ, David KY4FH, John KN4BVH, and Pat W4OQG. The Equipment Demonstrators are Rick WA4NVM, Rick KJ4NWQ, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO.

### **CBU Tech Review Class 3-22 – February 23, 2022**

A Technician license review session was held in Dr. Eric Welch (WD5FTA)'s junior level Introduction to Unmanned Aerial Vehicle class for 13 Christian Brother University students on February 23rd. Congratulations to Juan KO4YBR, Juan KO4YBS, Hector KO4YBT, Jake

KO4YBU, Dan KO4YBV, Joshua KO4YBW, Aldrin KO4YBX, Carlos KO4YCN, and James KE8UAR earned their Technician licenses.

Thanks to the Laurel VEC Team of Barry W5CJ, Jelly N4HLT, David KY4FH, David AJ4KF, Eric WD5FTA and Joe WA4OVO for providing the Laurel FCC test session.

### **Extra Class 1-22 – January 3 – February 14, 2022**

Extra Class 1-22 license class is being held via Zoom and started on Monday night, January 3, 2022 from 6:15-9:30pm. The class is for seven Monday nights until February 14th.

There are eight students in the class: Paul Broom KN4WGX, Kevin Buddle KO4UTX, Charles Byars KI5HWA, Randall Haynes KO4KKA, Kevin Kelley KO4OAO, Dylan Martin KC4DTM, Scott McDermott KO4OWE, and Jan Slezak KC1QBB. Since last report one student dropped out and one joined.

Congratulations to Kevin Buddle KY4MI, formerly KO4UTX, for testing early with a W5YI on-line testing group and upgrading on January 25th.



Extra Class 1-22 Test Session

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, John Reiners KN4BVH, Dave Church AD4Q, Dean Honadle N2LAZ, Pat Lane W4OQG, Paul Roberts KA9VAU, and David Wilson KY4FH.

**Pictures from the 2023 Swamp Stompers  
Event**

Photos provided by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT and  
Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB











## 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 QRZ.COM and log in. Then enter your email address on their QRZ page so other hams can contact you vial 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:

- 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.

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.

## ARRL MEMBERSHIP COMMISSIONS Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Recently ARRL revised their membership commissions to ARRL clubs that process individual ARRL memberships through the club. The club can receive \$15 for new memberships or renewals of past ARRL memberships over two years old. Current renewals generate a \$5 commission. Current ARRL members can renew/extend their ARRL membership at any time. If you renew early, your ARRL membership is extended for the renewal period from the expiration of your current ARRL membership. The club only gets \$5 for each renewal application no matter how many years being renewed.

Here is a link to the ARRL membership renewal form.

[ARRL-Membership-Application.pdf](#)

Fill it out and bring a check made payable to ARRL to the meeting or mail to the Delta Amateur Radio Club at PO Box 342768, Bartlett TN 38134-2768. Or, you can pay Jim Martin KD4FUU in cash at a meeting. Even though credit card information is on the application, the Delta Club does not want to have access to credit cards so we will not accept an application with a credit card information for payment.

Also, here is a link to the Delta Club Membership Application:

[application-15-3.pdf \(wsimg.com\)](#)

## Packet Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

Many hams use computers along with their radios for digital modes and ham radio programs. Buying a new computer can cost a lot because of low supply and high demand. I went to Walmart to look for a new laptop and found many were sold out. On Ebay the selection was better but new ones went up in price because of the pandemic. I read about factory recertified computers. These are like new computers and have been tested for full functionality. Some come with a 30 day money back guarantee with free return shipping and a two year warranty on parts and labor through Allstate. The best part is the price can be 30 to 50 percent off of retail. On Ebay they are easy to find. Just do a search for the brand of laptop you want and on the left side bar you can pick “certified refurbished” to narrow the search down to what you want. This is an easy way to get a good price on the computer of your choice.



# Amateur Hardware Update

By: James Butler KB4LJV

One of the newest QRP rigs to go on sale is the USDR. This small radio has a larger following because of all the features for the price. The rig will output up to 10 watts on AM, FM, CW, USB, and LSB. The rig is not a kit but a fully built and ready to use radio. It has built in DSP filter for 4000 Hz down to 50 HZ. The radio comes in two types of cases. A desktop style and a picnic table style for more portable use. The Chinese companies that make these also have different color cases for the radio. These run on 12 VDC power. They include a power charger box and have built in batteries for portable use. It has a CW key input and is supplied with a plug in microphone to fit the radio. The radio has a CW decoder on screen and also has built in Iambic A and B keyer. The radio has variable tuning setting along with adjustable attenuators. The USDR has VFO A and B +RIT with split. CAT support is supported through a built in communication port. The radios can be purchased on Ebay for as low as \$125. This makes it the cheapest 8 band radio on the market. To see all these on Ebay do a search for “USDR radio”. Go to Youtube and search “USDR radio” to see videos of the radio in operation.



**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**

The YL Net is every Saturday at 8:45 pm on the 146.820 frequency, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. We encourage all YLs to check in with us on the YL Net!

**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>.

## 2023 Board of Directors

### **President**

Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB  
[ky4fb@arrl.net](mailto:ky4fb@arrl.net)  
901-356-1475

### **Vice President**

Perry Hayes, N4GJ  
[pshayes@gmail.com](mailto:pshayes@gmail.com)  
901-626-2279

### **Secretary**

Paul Broom, KY4MX  
[Ky4mx@arrl.net](mailto:Ky4mx@arrl.net)  
901-517-1490

### **Treasurer**

Jim Martin, KD4FUU  
[KD4FUU@gmail.com](mailto:KD4FUU@gmail.com)  
248-830-8179

### **Director of Training**

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO  
[wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com)  
901-628-4318

### **Director of Publications**

Mike Harrison, KM4MRW  
[mheagle85@gmail.com](mailto:mheagle85@gmail.com)  
731-609-1948

### **Director of Programs**

John Reiners, KN4BVH  
[KN4BVH@comcast.net](mailto:KN4BVH@comcast.net)  
901-541-0310

### **Director of Meetings & Special Events**

Scott Adams, KM4PMU  
[scottedadamsjr@hotmail.com](mailto:scottedadamsjr@hotmail.com)  
901-573-6280

### **Public Information Officer**

Len Grice, W4MKS  
[W4MKS@arrl.net](mailto:W4MKS@arrl.net)  
901-522-6711

### **Immediate Past President**

Steve Frazier, KK4VPT  
[sfrazier1@bellsouth.net](mailto:sfrazier1@bellsouth.net)  
901-218-6385

### **Repeater Trustee**

Barry McDonald, W5CJ  
[W5CJ@ARRL.NET](mailto:W5CJ@ARRL.NET)  
901-853-0510

## Upcoming Events

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

April 8, 2023:

MARA's FreeFest, Bartlett, TN

June 17, 2023:

Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention / ARRL Tennessee State Convention (Knoxville, TN)

June 24-25, 2023:

ARRL Field Day

September 30, 2023:

Bluff City Blues Bike Ride, Shelby Forest

## Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

Name of Net	Frequency (MHz)	Offset/Tone	Local Time	Day of Week
Delta Club Information Net	146.82	- (107.2)	8:00p	Daily
YL Net	146.82	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Four-Forty Net	443.7	+(107.2)	8:30p	Friday
Mid-South Bullfrog Net	146.535	[simplex]	7:30p	Daily
Elmer Net	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
MedMERS Net	146.82	- (107.2)	12:00p	Wednesday
ARES Training Net	146.85	- (107.2)	9:00p	Thursday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
TN Statewide DMR Net	Digital – DMR		8:00p	Friday
Crittenden ARO	147.15	+ (107.2)	7:30p	Sunday
Crittenden ARO	442.4	+ (107.2)	8:00p	Thursday
Olive Branch ARC	147.255	+ (79.9)	8:30p	Thursday
Linked	444.7	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Thursday
Desoto County EMA	146.91	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
Tipton ARS	145.49	+ (100.0)	7:30p	Thursday

## 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

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