

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 102 * July 2024



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 |

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, July 09, 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.

There will be FCC Testing Tuesday in Room B201.

Programs:

1. Field Day Review moderated by John Reiners, KN4BVH
2. Ham Radio Go Bags moderated by John Reiners, KN4BVH

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

Announcements

HAM 101

This month's HAM 101 topic will be installation of PL259s and introduction to power poles. Join us at 5:30 in room B202 next to the testing room.

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 17, 2024

We are going again. Leave at 6:30a on Saturday August 17th from Germantown Baptist Church. Leave Von Braun Center after the Grand Prize drawing at 4. Return about 7:45-8p. This year's fee is \$99 by July 31st; then \$120. Fee includes the transportation, hamfest entry, two ham, sausage, or plain biscuits, cookies, crackers, fruit, water and soft drinks. If you want to go, send me an email of your interest even if you do not pay until later. You can pay at the July Delta Club meeting or send a check payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club to Joe Lowenthal, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis TN 38120. Include name, callsign, email address, and either ham or sausage biscuits. Hope to see you on the bus. Joe WA4OVO@gmail.com

ARRL 2024 Hamvention Forums

Hamvention Forums that were recorded can be viewed at this YouTube Playlist.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLM_NXI3v5F_z2HUGadVzbgOMgAvh22iDX

Provided by Randy K5ZD

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 with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number is text.

The next **Tech** license class 3-24 will be July 8 – August 12, 2024, Twelve students have signed up so far.

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

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

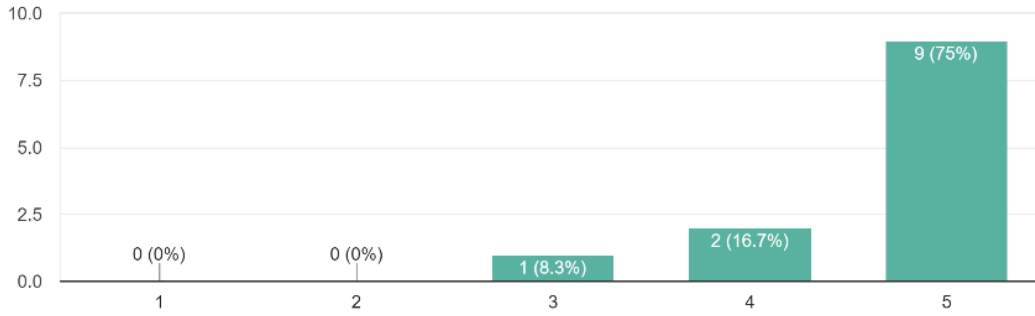
June Membership Meeting Signal Report

I wanted to share the "Signal Report" from the meeting last month. We had 53 people on the sign in sheet and 12 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how things are going. We want to hear from the membership, both good and bad. It gives us the opportunity to hear from you and respond. Our surveys allow us to quickly respond to things that are liked and things that are not liked. If we are doing something that is not getting good feedback we are committed to changing it and making it better. Please enjoy the results from last month below.

Thank you.

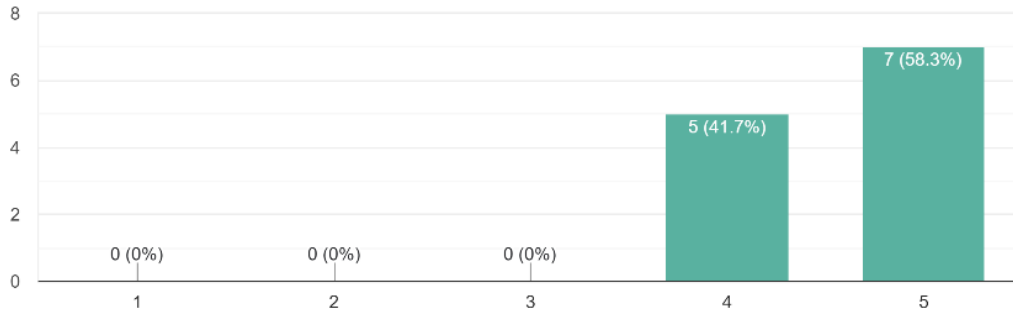
How satisfied were you with the event?

12 responses

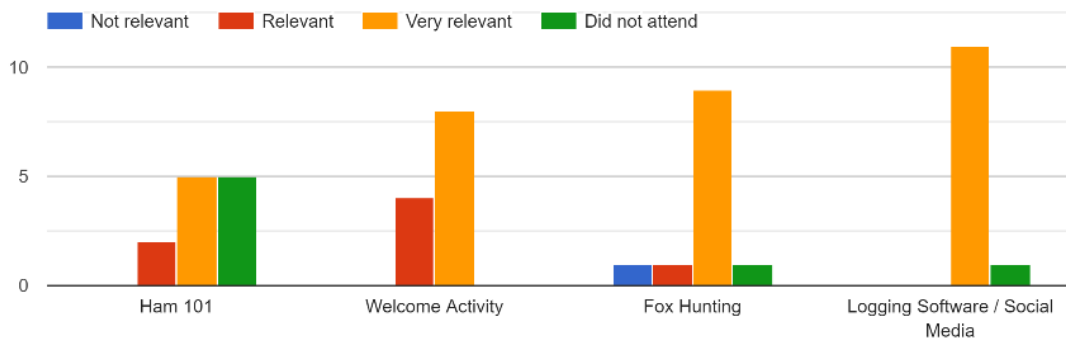


How relevant and helpful do you think it was to our hobby?

12 responses



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



New News and Articles from our Membership

President's Corner

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

July is upon us! We have passed through a successful Field Day and we are now at the half way point of our year. What a time we have had!

We had a fantastic time at Field Day. We made over 400 contacts across the stations that operated. We had tremendous success at all the stations. The CW, FT8, and SSB stations were all able to make contacts throughout the day and night. The Get On the Air (GOTA) station was loved by the many people who were able to make their first contacts on HF. The GOTA station was able to work with multiple youth to achieve their first contact. What a thrill that was to watch and listen to!

At our halfway point in our year we have achieved a wonderful milestone! We currently have more members on our rolls than we had last year! So far this year, we have 166 members on our active roll! We have renewed 89 members and added 21 new members! I am excited for our club that our membership is growing! Our membership from 2023 has all renewed except for 36 members. I would hope that our remaining renewals would choose to join us for 2024!

With our year halfway complete let's not stop and rest--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

INTRODUCTION to HAM RADIO at COLLIERVILLE LIBRARY

By Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

On June 15th from 2:00-3:30 Joe WA4OVO gave a presentation on Ham Radio to 10 participants. There were also three other hams present: Mary Jean KY4FB, Jim N4VOK and Will KO4FUM. At the end of the PowerPoint presentation there was a live HF contact with the Maritime Net Control Station on 14.300MHz using a Comet CHA-250Bx vertical. The NCS was in Minnesota.



Ham Intro Presentation on 6/15/24
Photos by Mary Jean Hall KY4FB



Live contact with Maritime Mobile Net

2024 Field Day Photos
By Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO











Repeater Corner

It's random thoughts time. I had the most fun at a Field Day this year that I have had in a long time. It was hot, but worth it to attend. I made 50 contacts on 20 meters and enjoyed it. The other part that I enjoy about club activities is talking to other hams. I got to meet a contact that I needed for site access to a repeater. I talked to another ham about P25 public safety scanning, which is one of my interests.

In the repeater world, we have been busy behind the scenes tracking down issues and looking at replacing some antennas at a site. The 146.820 crackle monster has mostly stayed hidden the last month.

Many a good conversation happens on a repeater. A conversation often sparks new ideas. Over the last few years, I have accumulated several cheap DMR radios. A couple of us thought, what if instead of selling the radio for a few bucks we donate it to a club or give it to someone to get started? Just a thought.

Have fun and talk on the repeaters!

Dan Fleek AA4DF
Repeater/Callsign Trustee

PACKET UPDATE

When using our computers for ham radio software and other programs we always need more memory. Most laptops we have can run everything we need. They can operate for 8 hours or more on internal battery power. The internal drive they come with is limited in size and we soon need more. The smallest memory cards are the Micro SD cards which also just plug in if you have a micro SD port on the laptop. These all just plug into the side of the laptop and get recognized as another drive added on to the system. These newer drives have more memory and are cheaper. I pick the ones that are flush or nearly flush with the laptop and just leave them in place all the time. The prices for these are good up to about 512 gigabyte. You can get these in a larger capacity but these are a premium price. I like the SanDisk brand for my micro SD drive as they are very reliable. I have never had one fail. Do a search on Ebay for "micro SD card".

James Butler
KB4LJV



AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE

Many times amateurs experiment with different logic and RF circuits. Building small circuit requires soldering parts on a PC board or using a plug in experimenter board to try out new designs. Newer electronics use surface mount chips which do the same function in a smaller package. Older chips are larger and have pins that would normally go into holes on the printed circuit board. Using older chips makes it easier to work on these homemade circuits. The good news is older chip technology is still available for great prices. Standard chips like the LM555 timer chip, LM741 operational amplifier chip, LM386 audio amplifier chip, and the LM567 tone decoder chips can be bought at surplus prices. I see these in packs of 10 for under \$2 with free shipping. You can buy almost any of these older chips for great prices to use in your projects. Go to Ebay and do a search for the chip you want.

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@deltaclub.org** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

June 1, 2024 through June 28, 2024

SUMMARY

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$21,392.11 | Minimum Daily Balance | \$21,392 |
| Deposits & Credits | \$443.00 + | Average Monthly Statement Balance | \$21,510 |
| Withdrawals | \$0.00 - | | |
| Fees | \$0.00 - | | |
| Automatic Transfers | \$0.00 + | | |
| Checks | \$0.00 - | | |
| Ending Balance | \$21,835.11 | | |

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|----------|
| 06/11 | Deposit - Thank You | 99.00 |
| 06/24 | Deposit - Thank You | 299.00 |
| 06/28 | Deposit - Thank You | 45.00 |
| | Total Deposits & Credits | \$443.00 |

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

| Date | Balance | Date | Balance | Date | Balance |
|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 06/11 | 21,491.11 | 06/24 | 21,790.11 | 06/28 | 21,835.11 |

| Applications Received -June 2024 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| (0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues | | \$0.00 |
| (0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived | | \$0.00 |
| (0) New Membership(s) - Individual | | \$0.00 |
| (0) New Membership(s) - Family | | \$0.00 |
| (1) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual | | \$20.00 |
| (1) Membership Renewal(s) - Family | | \$25.00 |
| (0) Donations Received | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Dues Received | \$45.00 |
| Other Deposits & Credits | | |
| (0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00) | | \$0.00 |
| (0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00) | | \$0.00 |
| ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees | | \$0.00 |
| 2024 Huntsville Hamfest - Bus Fares Received | | \$398.00 |
| | Total Other Deposits | \$398.00 |
| | | |
| | Total Deposits | \$443.00 |
| Withdrawals | | |
| None | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Withdrawals | \$0.00 |
| Checks | | |
| None | | |
| | Total Payments | \$0.00 |

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 | \$26.64 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481 | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 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 | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| ▲ Hide More Details | | | |

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Available Balance | <u>INTEREST RATE</u> | <u>YTD INTEREST</u> | <u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u> |
| \$11,374.28 | 2.230 % | \$126.23 | \$44.44 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503 | | | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| ISSUE DATE | LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID | PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST | |
| 10/28/2022 | \$62.89 | \$248.05 | |
| ISSUE VALUE | DATE LAST INTEREST PAID | MATURITY DATE | |
| \$11,000.00 | 4/28/2024 | 11/26/2024 | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| ▲ Hide More Details | | | |

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

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

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ.

Guests: Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Adam White, K4SPB.

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) was held on Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30pm on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being present. President Joe Plunk NS4E called the meeting to order.

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

Joe Plunk said that Field Day was a great event, and the team logged over 400 contacts. Joe is sorting the logs and preparing a chart to display to the club. There will be a report on Field Day at the July membership meeting.

Joe Plunk announced that Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, and Adam White, K4SPB, have agreed to fill the open positions on the BOD. Joe Plunk nominated Tyler Henley as Vice-President. There were no objections. The BOD voted unanimously to accept Tyler as Vice-President. Joe Plunk nominated Adam White as Public Information Officer (PIO). There were no objections. The BOD voted unanimously to accept Adam as PIO.

Secretary Perry Hayes discussed the minutes of the June DARC Membership Meeting, which he submitted to the BOD by e-mail, and the minutes of the June DARC BOD Meeting, which were published in the June issue of *Sparks*. President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes, as submitted. Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KMN4MRW. The motion passed with no objections.

Perry Hayes presented the new and renewal membership applications that were submitted since the June BOD Meeting. Perry made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Jim Martin. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Jim Martin presented the July Treasurer's Report. Jim said that he is working with the State of Tennessee on the DARC's tax-exempt status. There was a discussion about how to make tax-exempt purchases.

Jim said a DARC check made to Joe Plunk still needs to be cashed. Joe Plunk said he was aware of the check, and would get it cashed. Jim Martin also said he donated \$5.00 to cover an amount still owed to the DARC by ARRL. ARRL's records indicate that they made the payment to DARC, but Regions Bank says that the payment has not gone through.

Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to accept the Treasurers Report. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as submitted, which was seconded by Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO. The motion passed with no objections.

Joe Plunk discussed three payments that needed to be authorized by the BOD. The first was for \$200, to be paid to as a donation the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary (Mid-America Seminary). The second was a reimbursement to Joe Lowenthal for \$102, for an entry fee and two tables at the Huntsville Hamfest. The third was for \$187.17, to reimburse the Nashoba Amateur Radio Club for half of the food provided at Field Day.

There was no opposition to paying these items. \$100 of the payment to Mid-America Seminary will be made from the BOD discretionary account in the budget and \$100 will be paid from the host account. The \$102 payment to Joe Lowenthal will be paid from the Huntsville Hamfest account. The \$187.17 payment will be paid from the Field Day account.

There was a discussion about the repairs taking place at the Ellendale Church of Christ, and whether DARC might be invited back after repairs are complete. There was also a discussion about whether Mid-America Seminary would be willing to continue hosting the DARC membership meetings. Joe Lowenthal said that he did not expect the repairs to be completed at Ellendale this year. Joe Lowenthal also said he would reach out to Mid-America Seminary, and report back to the BOD.

Director of Programs, John Reiners, KN4BVH, discussed the topics for the July Membership Meeting.

Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, shared some of his personal experiences at Field Day.

Club Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said that he and Joe Lowenthal had visited the Brunswick repeater site. The 82 repeater and 443.700 repeaters are doing well. Dan lowered the squelch on the 443.700 repeater, which has helped more people hit the machine. Dan said he will hold off on ordering the amplifier for the 443.700 repeater until DARC receives its tax-exempt status. Dan plans to purchase the APRS antenna for the Methodist North site now, and

seek reimbursement. When the APRS antenna arrives, Dan will remove and examine the 220 antenna at Methodist North. The 220 repeater has been turned off, due to high SWR.

There was a discussion about the contact email address and/or phone number that should be listed at the Brunswick repeater site.

Dan Fleek also reported that he is now listed with the FCC as the DARC Repeater Trustee.

Joe Plunk said that Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, is still looking for members to serve on the Bylaws Committee. Anyone interested should contact Mary Jean.

Joe Plunk reported that he is still working on getting Errors and Omissions insurance for the DARC. He will report back to the BOD on his progress at a later date.

Joe Plunk said he was very interested in streamlining the *Sparks* newsletter. Joe said he wanted newer information and content to be moved to the top, and routine and historical information moved to the bottom. Joe said he would discuss his ideas with Director of Publications Mike Harrison. Joe Plunk said he would like for the BOD members to write articles for *Sparks*, and to help Mike by being mindful of the monthly deadlines.

There was a discussion about possible changes and improvements to the *Sparks* newsletter, and the deltaclub.org website.

Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB, shared some of his thoughts on improvements to the website.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, said he would welcome feedback and suggestions for improvements to *Sparks* and deltaclub.org. He reminded the BOD about his deadlines for submissions to *Sparks*.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal reported that 9 students have enrolled in the current Technician Class License Class. Joe said 13 people have signed up for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest and 9 have paid the fare. 28 riders are needed to fully fund the trip.

Tyler Henley said that he had received military orders, and would be gone for 38 days, mostly in August. On behalf of DARC and the BOD, Joe Plunk thanked Tyler for his service to our country.

Joe Plunk shared some statistics that he prepared in regards to DARC's new and renewing memberships. Joe said that the membership numbers are trending upwards. He discussed ideas for improving the number of new memberships and renewals.

Joe Plunk discussed the DARC's Google Workspace and said he would still like for the BOD to consider purchasing the HamClubOnline software suite. Several BOD members agreed to take a detailed look at HamClubOnline.

Joe Plunk reported that there was no Old Business.

Joe Plunk said that he would like for the BOD to consider changes to the DARC logo, and discuss that matter in future meetings. Joe said the words "Service" "Education" and "Fellowship" used to be part of the logo, but were removed at some point. He would like to add them back to the logo.

There being no further business, Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by John Reiners and seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:06pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 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
June 11, 2024

The June 2024 Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 11, 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, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joe reminded everyone that Field Day will be held on June 22-23. Joe made a roll call of the Board of Directors (BOD).

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made an announcement about the Ham 101 class.

Joe Plunk recognized the individuals who passed their FCC Amateur Radio License Exams during the VE session.

In New Business, Joe Plunk said that the membership needed to approve the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report. Ham Hilliard made a motion to approve the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report, as published in *Sparks*. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk said that Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, passed along a report from the Bylaws Committee. The committee is about to start revising the club bylaws. Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact Mary Jean.

Joe made a plug for Field Day. He asked if any other BOD members present had reports for the club.

Secretary Perry Hayes had no additional report.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, had no additional report.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, had no additional report.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, announced that a Technician Class License Class will begin on July 8th, and meet on six Monday nights - through August 12th. 6 people have signed up for the class so far. The class will meet at the Memphis Police Department's Appling Farms Station.

Joe Lowenthal also said that the Delta Club was sponsoring a bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 17th. The current fare is \$99 and it will go up to \$120 on August 1st. A minimum of 25 riders is necessary for the trip to be financially viable. Interested parties can make a check payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. Joe will accept payments at club meetings and Field Day. Checks can also be mailed to Joe at his QTH. He is good on QRZ.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, reported that the 146.82 repeater is experiencing intermittent static. The SWR is good and the duplexers are tuned, so Dan will continue to

investigate before purchasing any additional equipment or accessories. Dan is ordering an amplifier for the 443.700 repeater. Dan is also ordering a new APRS antenna for the repeater site at Methodist North Hospital. When the APRS antenna is installed, Dan will take down the 220 antenna and test it.

Joe Plunk encouraged any members that are interested in the Club repeaters to join the Repeater Committee. Experience and expertise are not required, just a willingness to help and to learn.

Joe Plunk said there was no old business for the membership to consider. He encouraged everyone in attendance to complete a *Signal Report* survey.

Ray Miller, AA4UK, gave a presentation on Ham Radio Fox Hunting. A radio with a fox hunt controller transmits on an agreed-upon frequency. Fox hunters use HT radios with directional antennas to triangulate the rough location of the fox, and attenuation is used to pinpoint the transmitter. Ray showed an antenna and attenuator that he built. He also demonstrated how bearings taken from multiple locations could be used to locate the position of the fox on a map. Ray had a slideshow with photographs taken at previous fox hunts in the area.

Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, gave a presentation on the N3FJP logging software (N3FJP) that will be used at Field Day. N3FJP was created by a ham, and is available for download at n3fjp.com. Steve showed the settings that will be used by Delta Club and Nashoba Club at Field Day. He demonstrated the helpful features that are built into the software, and showed how N3FJP has been customized for use during Field Day and other popular contests.

Steve also gave a presentation on the Delta Amateur Radio Club, Inc. YouTube channel and the Delta Amateur Radio Club Facebook page. Steve showed examples of the club meeting videos, Ham 101 videos, BOD meeting videos and historical videos that he posted to YouTube. He also showed the content that is available on Facebook. Steve reminded everyone that we are still looking for someone to serve on the BOD as the Public Information Officer (PIO).

Adam White, K4SPB, volunteered to fill the PIO position.

Joe Plunk then gave some additional details about this year's Field Day event. Field Day will be held on Saturday, June 22 through Sunday, June 23. The location will be at the Germantown Municipal Park, 1900 S. Germantown Road, behind the Germantown Library and near the Germantown Performing Arts Center (GPAC). There will be 80/15 meter, 20 meter, CW, FT8 and GOTA stations operating. Setup will begin around 9am on Saturday morning and Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, will be giving a class on phased vertical antennas at 10:30am. Contacts will be made from 1pm on Saturday to 1pm on Sunday.

Joe Plunk announced that Joe Lowenthal will be giving a presentation about Ham Radio on June 15th at the Collierville Library. The presentation will be held from 2:00 to 3:30pm.

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 Jose Ibarra, KJ4TCJ. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, adjourned the meeting at 8:22pm.

The next regular Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 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 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

11 Technician

1 General

3 Extra

Note:

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSED CLASSES

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

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

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 5th class is a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. The last class will be demonstrations on FM Repeater Basics, satellite operations, APRS, and FM digital operations. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway. There are twelve students registered for the class.

The instructors are 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 23rd from 9:00am-1:00PM. The first four classes were via Zoom. The 5th 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 3rd 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 6th to December 11th 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 11th 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

Museum Ships on the Air - 2024
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO set up antennas and transmitters in Poplar Estates Park in Germantown on June 1st.

There were some sprinkles and rain at setup, but by 10:00 the sun was out. We set up too close to each other so Steve's FT8 operation was interfering with the SSB attempts. We not only made contact with museum ships, but also stations in the Kentucky QSO contest and others. Steve had 18 contacts with 9 on FT8. Joe had 7 contacts with 5 museum ships. Propagation was mixed. The below screenshot chart shows the stations that heard Steve's FT8 transmissions. Steve had an end-fed half wave positioned from the southeast to the northwest to an Icom IC-7300.

Joe had a Comet CHA-250Bx vertical and a TN07 87foot end-fed on a northeast to southwest direction to a Yaesu FT-891.

We enjoyed having John KK4LST, Don KZ4GJ, Bill KK4VPS and Joe NS4E. We also had several people, and their dogs stop by when they were walking in the park.



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 ARRLs Technical Information Service to assist with technical problems and help with your projects.

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

ARRL MEMBERSHIP COMMISSIONS Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

In 2022 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 Delta Amateur Radio Club to the meeting or mail your check 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 \(wsimg.com\)](#)

**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!

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>.

2024 Board of Directors

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Repeater Trustee

Dan Fleek, AA4DF
AA4DF@arrl.net
901-491-3192

Upcoming Events

Huntsville Hamfest – August 17th
Bluff City Blues Ride – October 12th

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 th Monday |

TENNESSEE HF NETS

| Net Name | Freq. MHz | Local Time | Day of Week |
|---|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Tennessee CW Net | 3.563 | 7:00p | Daily |
| Tennessee Slow CW Net | 3.682 | 7:30p | Tue-Sun |
| Tennessee Alternate Phone Net | 7.238 | | As needed |
| CUSEC | 3.810 | | As needed |
| CUSEC (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium) | 7.180 | | As needed |

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

Mon-Fri - 5:40 AM, 6:45 AM & **5:30 PM** (5:30 pm beginning Nov. 9 evening)
 Saturday - 8:00 AM & 5:30 PM
 Sunday - 8:00 AM only
 Holidays - 8:00 AM only

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



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Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

John Kalotai, N1OLO
 Owner

456 Long Hill Avenue
 Shelton, CT 06484

203-556-8700

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

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



DARC Meeting: Second Tuesday of every month at 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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Joe Miller
 Owner