

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 101 * June 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, June 11, 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. Fox Hunting by Ray Miller, AA4UK
2. Logging Software / Social Media Presence by Steve Frazier, KK4VPT

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 propagation and vertical antennas for Field Day. 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 or sausage biscuits, crackers, chips, 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 June or July Delta Club meetings, at Field Day, 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

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

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

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

ARRL Dues Increase

ARRL Dues went up from \$49 to \$59 per year on January 1,2024. There is a discount for 3-year renewals. You can renew your membership any time and the term will be added to the current expiration date. If you renew your ARRL membership through the club, the club will receive \$5. Complete the ARRL application and make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club.

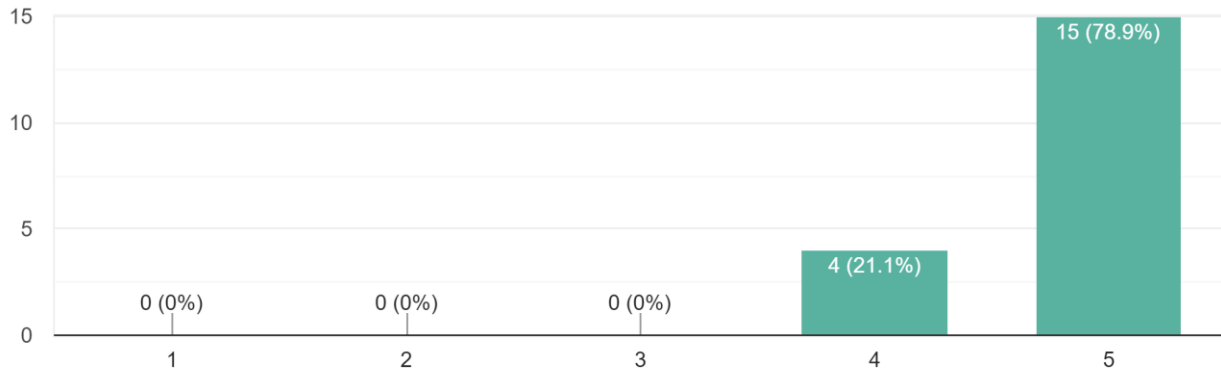
May Membership Meeting Signal Report

I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 52 people on the sign in sheet and 19 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.

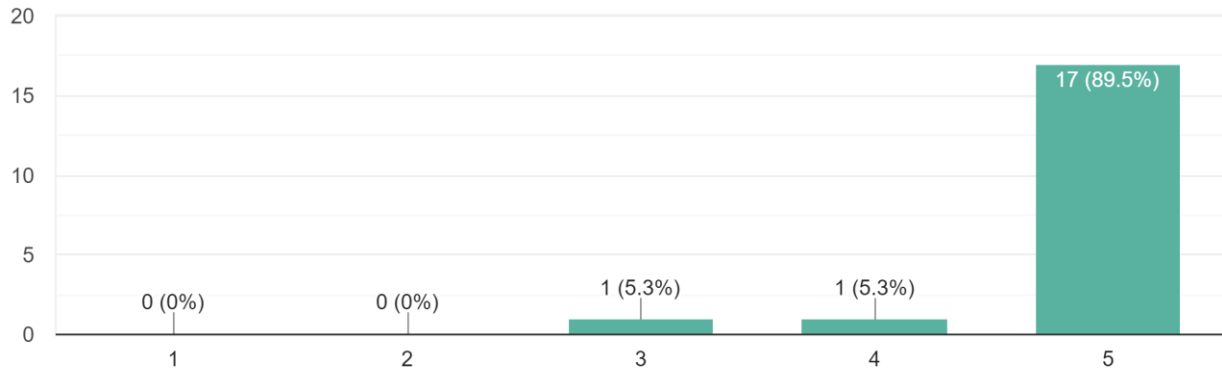
How satisfied were you with the event?

19 responses

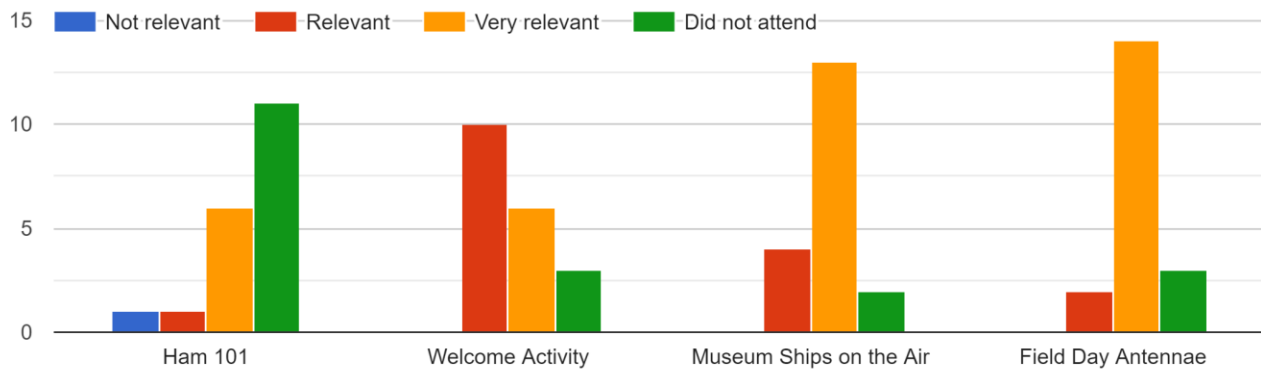


How relevant and helpful do you think it was to our hobby?

19 responses



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



The most requested snacks were, Diet Dr. Pepper, Bugles, coffee, and Chocolate

President's Corner

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

In February of this year, I posed a question to you our membership: Are you making your Deposit? The question was posed in the context of three possible ways you could be making a deposit into our club: Attend a meeting, renew your membership, and the biggest deposit of all—ask someone to join our club. This month I would again pose the question to you our membership: Are you making a deposit into our club?

I would ask you this question to highlight that our hobby is coming up on the day were we are showcased. We have our annual Field Day in June—June 22nd – 23rd to be precise. The club is planning to participate again this year. The event is going to be at the Germantown Municipal Park (It has been at the location for several years now), from Saturday June 22nd to Sunday June 23rd at 1 PM. Please plan on attending. It is a fun event!

Why would I ask what have you done with your hobby and then link it to field day? I ask to make this point – as amateur radio operators we need to make our hobby more visible. There are so many ways to do that. I hope that by asking you our member the question you will think about ways that you can make our hobby more visible to those not in our hobby. Field day is traditionally an event that gets showcased to the public about the benefits of the amateur radio hobby, as such, we should be prepared to be able to showcase the many different aspects of our hobby.

We are planning on having food, radio contacts, camaraderie, and fun. We are planning on operating 80m/15m, 20m, FT8, CW, GOTA (Get On The Air) as well as some other fun activities. Field day is a great activity for you to come try out different modes of operation and see how they work. All license classes are welcome and you will be able to operate across all bands. Some of the extra events that are currently planned include an opportunity for Scouts to work on the Radio merit badge, the Electronics merit badge (with some kit soldering work) as well as a possible session to get your HT programmed. Please let us know what interests you.

Finally, to all of our members, thank you for being a member of the Delta Amateur Radio Club. If you are a member that has not renewed, please do so, it is not too late! Otherwise, going back to a previous article that I wrote, I would ask that you “Make a deposit” and share our club with someone who is not a member and ask them to join us.

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

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
May 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024

SUMMARY			
Beginning Balance	\$21,134.65	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,969
Deposits & Credits	\$423.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$21,101
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$165.54 -		
Ending Balance	\$21,392.11		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS			
05/28	Deposit - Thank You		318.00
05/31	Deposit - Thank You		105.00
			Total Deposits & Credits
			\$423.00

CHECKS					
Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
05/14	1620	100.54	05/23	1622 *	65.00
					Total Checks
					\$165.54

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY					
Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
05/14	21,034.11	05/28	21,287.11	05/31	21,392.11
05/23	20,969.11				

Applications Received - May 2024		
(3) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$45.00
(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
	Total Dues Received	\$105.00
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		\$318.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$318.00
	Total Deposits	\$423.00
Withdrawals		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1620 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement for club meeting refreshments		\$100.54
Check #1622 - Dinkelspiel Rasmussen & Mink - Attorney Fees		\$65.00
	Total Payments	\$165.54

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	\$6.46
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *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	
▲ 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	\$24.98
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503			
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	
▲ Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Minutes of the DARC Board of Directors Meeting June 4, 2024

Attendees: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Club Call Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors (BOD) was held on Tuesday, June 4 at 6:50pm on a Zoom video conference call, with the President serving as chair and the Secretary being absent. President Joe Plunk NS4E called the meeting to order.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the May Delta Club Membership Meeting, as presented by Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, via email. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF. The motion passed with no objections.

President Joe Plunk presented the new and renewal membership applications that were submitted by Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, via email. Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to approve all of the applications. Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk presented the June Treasurer's Report, which Treasurer Jim Martin submitted via email. John Reiners made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as submitted. Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

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

Joe Plunk said the Bylaws Committee did not have a report.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that he was still investigating the intermittent static that is heard on the Brunswick repeaters. Dan reported that the donated amplifier for the 443.700

repeater was only putting out 50 watts, so he would order a new amplifier, as originally planned.

Dan said that he and Joe Plunk visited the repeater site at Methodist North Hospital and found that the APRS antenna was damaged. In addition, the 220 repeater is experiencing high SWR. Dan will order a new antenna for the APRS station, which will cost around \$350. The amount will come from the Repeater Maintenance Fund in the budget. Dan will conduct further tests on the 220 repeater.

There was a discussion about a certificate of the Club's tax exempt status, which will be ordered from the State of Tennessee. Treasurer Jim Martin will report on this matter in a future meeting.

There was a discussion about making an inventory of equipment when there is a visit to the Club's repeater sites.

In New Business, Joe Plunk reported that the preamble for the monthly Nashoba Amateur Radio Club net had been approved by the BOD, via email. The net will be held on the 146.625 repeater, and will also accept check-ins via echolink and allstar.

Joe had no report on errors and omissions insurance.

Joe Plunk announced that he and Joe Lowenthal met with Fred Miller, KS2X, President of Nashoba Amateur Radio Club, about Field Day.

Stations are planned for 80/15 meters, 20 meters, FT8, CW, satellite, and a GOTA station. There was a discussion about which clubs and which individuals would be responsible for the various stations and for various Field Day operations.

Joe Plunk said he would promote participation in this year's Field Day by the scouting community. He would like to offer elements of the Radio and Electronics merit badges, simple electronics kits and an opportunity for uniformed scouts to get on the air.

Joe Plunk said he would also like to offer a class on programming HT radios, with the goal of having the radios programmed before the 8pm Delta Club Information Net. There was a discussion about hosting the net from the Field Day Site.

There was a discussion about a fox hunt being offered at a future Field Day event.

There was a discussion about the budgeted amount for Field Day, \$250, which covers food and beverage. This amount has historically been sufficient to cover the Club's portion of the costs.

Director of Publications, Mike Harrison, said he was entertaining the possibility of having a recruiter for the Tennessee National Guard at Field Day. The Guard is in need of experienced radio operators.

There was a discussion about bonus points that could be earned for Field Day, and which modes could be used to earn those points.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison said he is still working on updates to the format of the *Sparks* newsletter. Mike discussed the deadlines for the June issue.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, reported that a Technician Class License Class will begin on July 8th and end on August 12th. The class will meet from 6:15pm to 9:30pm at the Memphis Police Department's Appling Farms Station.

Joe Lowenthal also reported that 14 people had made a reservation for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest and 4 persons had paid their fare. Delta Club has until August 3rd to pay for the bus.

Joe Plunk said he would be happy to offer training to any BOD member on Google Workspace and its related components. Joe also said he would like the BOD to revisit using HamClub Online after Field Day.

There being no further business, Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mike Harrison and seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, 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
May 14, 2024

The May 2024 Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 14, 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 52 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: 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 Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joe recognized the club's Net Control Operators. He also recognized the hams in attendance who had been licensed for more than 20 years. Joe reminded everyone that qualified members were still needed to fill the posts of Vice-President and Public Information Officer (PIO) on the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors (BOD).

In new business, Joe Plunk said that the membership needed to approve the latest Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report. Rick Kanschat, N0KYN, moved to approve the Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in the May issue of *Sparks*. There was a second by Dan Wehner, KN4FBJ. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Secretary Perry Hayes had nothing to report.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, had nothing to report.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, said he would welcome any suggestions on topics for future programs.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, encouraged everyone to contact him if they had any snack requests. Joe Plunk said he would add a field to the *Signal Report* survey, where members could make snack suggestions.

Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ was absent, and made no report. Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, had nothing to report.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that he was looking to start a Technician Class License Class in July. The class would begin on July 8th, and meet on 6 Monday nights. Anyone that is interested should contact Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com.

Joe Lowenthal also said that the Delta Club was sponsoring a bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 17th. The fare is \$99 if paid before August 1st and \$120 if paid after 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 he and Joe Plunk had visited the repeater site at Methodist North Hospital. Dan said he planned to go back and do some testing with an antenna analyzer. Dan said that members interested in our club repeaters are needed to serve on the Repeater Committee.

At the conclusion of the BOD reports, Joe Plunk said there was no old business for the membership to consider. Director of Programs John Reiners introduced the evening's programs.

Joe Lowenthal gave a presentation about the Museum Ships on the Air event that will be held on June 1st and 2nd. HF Radio stations will operate from 89 different museum ships throughout the United States. Joe has had the opportunity to operate from two different museum ships in the past. Joe and Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, will operate an HF station at the Poplar Estates Park on Saturday, June 2d from 10am - 2 pm. This event will be good practice for field day. There will be an opportunity for local hams to serve as operators and loggers.

Fred Miller, KS2X, gave a presentation about a 20 meter vertical antenna that he built for Field Day last year. The antenna and base were constructed with many common materials. The antenna performed extremely well, and did not receive interference from other stations that were operating nearby. Using the new antenna, Fred's station went from silence to pileups.

Fred said that Delta Amateur Radio Club and Nashoba Amateur Radio Club will hold this year's Field Day events on June 22-23 at the Germantown Municipal Park. Fred also

announced that the Nashoba Amateur Radio Club is planning to operate a special event station during the Germantown Charity Horse Show.

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, W4GMM, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dan Wehner. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

The next regular Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 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 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 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.

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

An in-person Technician license class is planned for 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.

The instructors are Bobby KD5BS, 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.

CURRENT CLASSES

None

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



W4BS Trustee Corner
By: Dan Fleek, AA4DF

One of the fun parts of amateur radio is activities. One activity that I love is hamfests. It is not necessarily about buying things. It can also be meeting people, getting ideas, and seeing what others have done. It can recharge your interest in the hobby.

I make a yearly trek to Dayton Hamvention. I usually have a goal in mind, so I don't wander aimlessly and get little out of it. This year was about getting more information on repeaters and also taking a look at HF radios. I was able to talk to Bridgecom and DX engineering to get tech information. There I can get more information in a two-way conversation than posting in a forum or watching a video. I met repeater trustees from other areas that had good advice.

Not everyone can make it to Dayton. Consider going to the Huntsville Hamfest this year. See a forum on a topic you hadn't thought about. Meet some people. Take the club bus for only \$99 including snacks and entry ticket and leave the driving to someone else. Consider it an investment in your hobby.

Dan
AA4DF

2024 Field Day
By: John Reiners, KN4BVH

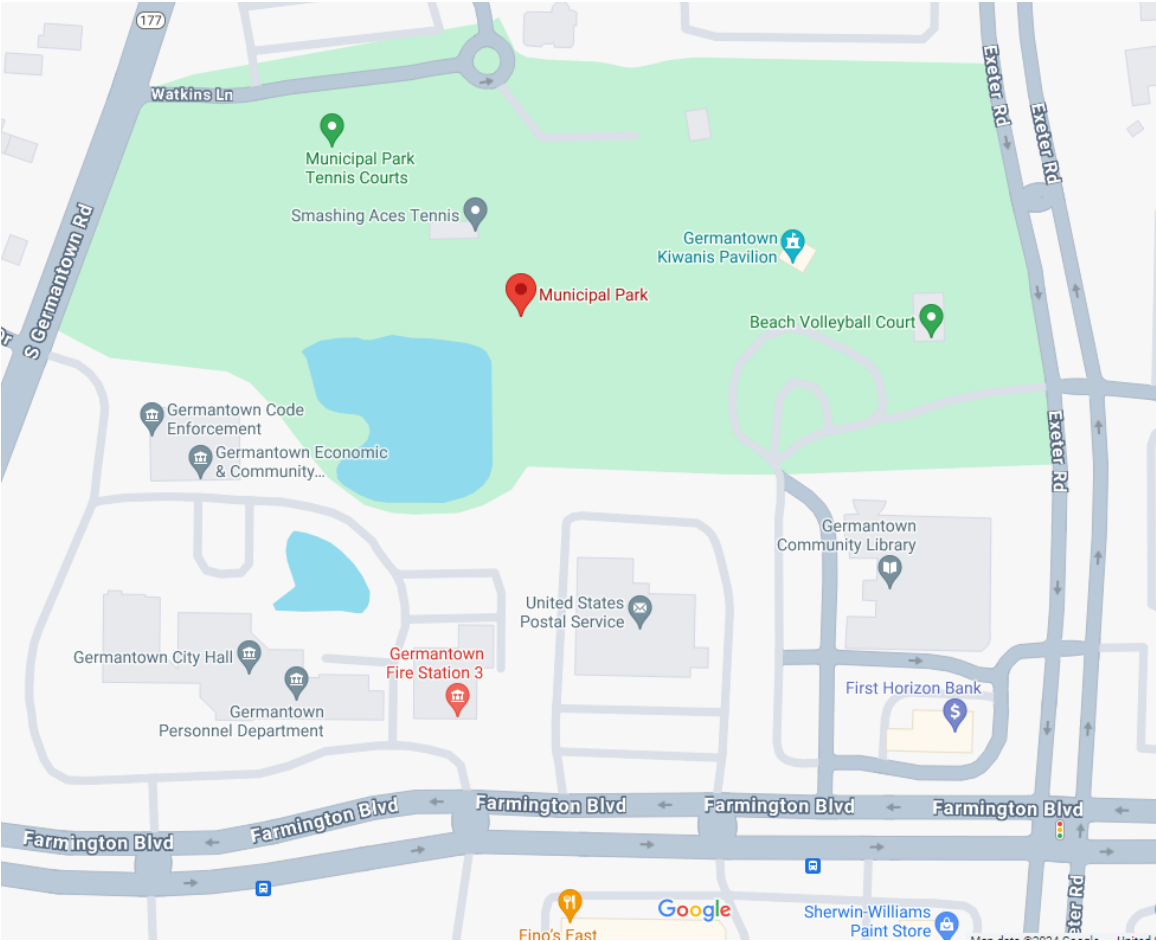
With FreeFest behind us this year, it's now time to focus our attention on Field Day. The 2024 ARRL Field Day starts June 22nd at 1:00pm Central time and ends June 23rd 1:00 Central time. This year's theme is "Be Radio Active". While we don't have all the details together just yet, we are talking about some fun activities during Field Day. As usual we will have a GOTA (Get On The Air) station so those that don't have HF operating privileges will be able to operate on HF bands. We are also planning a fox hunt this year and may have some sort of kit building session to build a simple CW Key or other simple electronic device. As always, we are looking for operators to volunteer to operate stations, so if you are interested in participating, please reach out to any of the board members and I am certain we can get you pointed in the right direction.

Thanks, and 73,
John KN4BVH

Field Day 2024
By: Joe Plunk, NS4E

The event is going to be at the Germantown Municipal Park (It has been at the location for several years now), from Saturday June 23rd to Sunday June 24th at 1 PM. Please plan on attending. It is a fun event! I have included a map below.

We are planning on having food, radio contacts, camaraderie, and fun. We are planning on operating 80m/15m, 20m, FT8, CW, GOTA (Get On The Air) as well as some other fun activities. Field day is a great activity for you to come try out different modes of operation and see how they work. All license classes are welcome, and you will be able to operate across all bands. Some of the extra events that are currently planned include an opportunity



for Scouts to work on the Radio merit badge, the Electronics merit badge (with some kit soldering work) as well as a possible session to get your HT programmed. Please let us know what interests you.

We are going to need assistance with several areas. We need operators and loggers for each of the positions. Please look for a signup sheet or form to come out closer to the event. Joe Lowenthal, John Reiners, and myself as well as others have all committed to be active at the event and taking on a lead in a specific area. Please feel welcome to come find us and let us know what you would like to do.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me or call me.

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

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.



Packet Update By: James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times, when amateurs work on equipment or start operating a new mode like FT8 additional information can be needed. One great resource for ham radio information is YouTube. Amateurs from all over the world post reviews on equipment, operation, and set ups of amateur radio equipment. Watching a video of a disassembly of a radio makes it easy to

determine if you want to try it yourself. Sometimes the manual that comes with your new radio is not the best and does not provide all the information you need. Youtube has videos of your radio setup and operation. On YouTube videos are also posted on the operation of software for amateur radio. These videos are a fantastic new resource for us to use. Many amateur radio topics you want information on can be accessed by doing a search on YouTube.

James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update
By: James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times, when we work on our equipment we need specialized tools. They make so many types of screw heads having the right screwdriver can be tough. Special tools are also required to separate plastic parts that are snapped together during assembly. If you use the wrong prying tool you could damage the plastic and mark the surface. Without the proper screwdriver tip, you will damage the screw head beyond repair. Most of these kits have different screwdriver tips of different sizes and styles. The kits also include different styles of pry tools made of metal and plastic. You can even pick what color you want the tools to be. If you are looking for a set of electronic tools to have to work on your equipment, check these out. Go to Ebay and do a search for “electronics tool kit”.

James Butler
KB4LJV



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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Joe Plunk, NS4E
NS4E@access-tech.com
901-491-2755

Vice President

OPEN

Secretary

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
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Jim Martin, KD4FUU
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901-541-0310

Director of Meetings & Special Events

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Public Information Officer

OPEN

Immediate Past President

Ty McMahan, KX4MQ
KX4MQ@icloud.com
901-833-7119

Repeater Trustee

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

Upcoming Events

ARRL Field Day - June 22nd at 1:00pm Central time and ends June 23rd 1:00pm Central time.
Huntsville HamFest – August 17th

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

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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Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

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203-556-8700

john@hamsource.com
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DELTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 342768
Memphis, TN 38134-2768

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



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



Joe Miller
Owner

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