

# SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 \* Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 \* Volume 100 \* May 2024



**Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)**

**Sparks Newsletter**

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

**Facebook:**

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

## **W4BS**

### **REPEATER SYSTEM**

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

This month's meeting will be **IN PERSON ONLY** at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 14, 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:**

- Museum Ships on the Air – Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO
- Antenna Setup for Field Day – Fred Miller, KS2X

**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

### **HAM RADIO 101**

This month's HAM 101 topic will be antenna construction with some show and tell and hands on. 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 are wanting to go, send me an email of your interest even if you do not pay until later.

You can pay at the May, 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

### **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 in text.

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in late June or early July.

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**

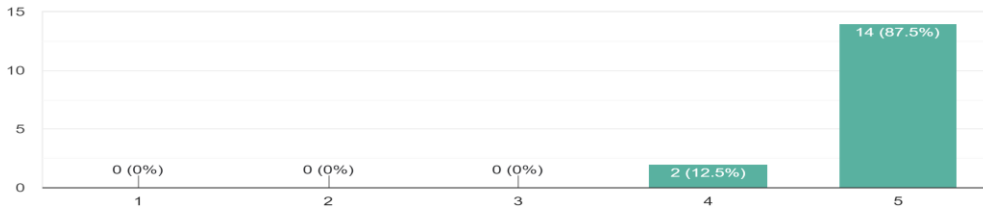
ARRL Dues went up from \$49 to \$59 per year on January 1, 2024. There is a discount for 3 year renewals. You can renew your membership any time and the term will be added to the current expiration date. If you renew your ARRL membership through the club, the club will receive \$5. Complete the ARRL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

## April Membership Meeting Signal Report

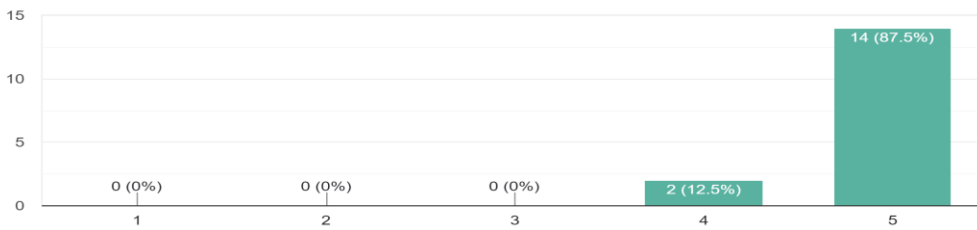
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the April meeting. We had 57 people on the sign in sheet and 16 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how things 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.

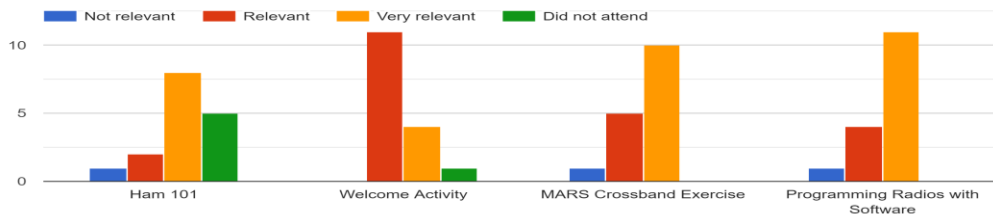
How satisfied were you with the event?  
16 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

Last month I posed a question to you our membership: What would you like to do with your amateur radio hobby? This month I would pose another question to you our membership: What have you done with your amateur radio hobby? Have you shared it with a newly licensed operator? Have you asked for help from a mentor? Have you spent any time talking on our rich network of repeaters? Have you met another Ham over a cup of coffee, lunch or dinner? I would ask you this question to highlight that our hobby is coming up on the day where we are showcased. We have our annual field day in June—June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> to be precise. The club is planning to participate again this year. We will have more details in June, but for now please put the date on your calendar. 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.

Finally, to all 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@deltacub.org](mailto:treasurer@deltacub.org) with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

**LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS**

March 30, 2024 through April 30, 2024

**SUMMARY**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$21,320.60</b>	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,969
Deposits & Credits	\$295.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$21,175
Withdrawals	\$25.95 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$455.00 -		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$21,134.65</b>		

**DEPOSITS & CREDITS**

04/08	Deposit - Thank You	5.00
04/10	Deposit - Thank You	125.00
04/30	Deposit - Thank You	165.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$295.00

**WITHDRAWALS**

04/02	TN Sos Annual Rp 6157412286 Delta Amateur 3765388	20.95
04/11	Returned Deposit Item # of Itm(S) 0001	5.00
Total Withdrawals		\$25.95

**CHECKS**

Date	Check No.	Amount
04/16	1619	455.00

**DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY**

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
04/02	21,299.65	04/10	21,429.65	04/16	20,969.65
04/08	21,304.65	04/11	21,424.65	04/30	21,134.65

<b>Applications Received - April 2024</b>		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(4) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$80.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(3) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$60.00
(2) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$50.00
(2) Donations Received		\$100.00
	<b>Total Dues Received</b>	<b>\$290.00</b>
<b>Other Deposits &amp; Credits</b>		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
Returned Item - ARRL commission - Deposit from 12/27/2023. Presented to bank again on 4/8/2024		\$5.00
	<b>Total Other Deposits</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
	<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$295.00</b>
<b>Withdrawals</b>		
TN SOS Annual Report - Filing Fee		\$20.95
Returned Item - ARRL commission - Deposit from 4/8/2024 - Third attempt to deposit returned again.		\$5.00
	<b>Total Withdrawals</b>	<b>\$25.95</b>
<b>Checks</b>		
Check #1619 - Dinkelspiel Rasmussen & Mink - Attorney Fees		\$455.00
	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$455.00</b>

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,172.66	5.020 %	\$64.93	\$50.62
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u> *8481			
<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST</u>	
10/28/2022	\$64.93	\$107.73	
<u>ISSUE VALUE</u>	<u>DATE LAST INTEREST PAID</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	
\$5,000.00	2/25/2024	1/22/2025	
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

## SMALL BUSINESS CD \*8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,374.28	2.230 %	\$126.23	\$5.55
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u> *8503			
<u>ISSUE DATE</u>	<u>LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST</u>	
10/28/2022	\$62.89	\$248.05	
<u>ISSUE VALUE</u>	<u>DATE LAST INTEREST PAID</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>	
\$11,000.00	4/28/2024	11/26/2024	
<a href="#">▲ Hide More Details</a>			

### **DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ**

Minutes of the DARC Board of Directors Meeting – May 7, 2024

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

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors (BOD) was held on Tuesday, May 7 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.

President Joe Plunk welcomed the BOD members to the meeting. Joe reminded everyone that the positions of Vice-President and Public Information Officer are still open. Qualified members of the club are needed to fill those positions.

Joe Plunk said that the minutes of the April Membership Meeting needed to be approved. There was a motion by Director of Programs Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO. The motion passed without opposition.

Perry Hayes presented the membership applications that had been received since the April BOD meeting. Perry moved that they all be approved. The motion was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously. Joe Plunk welcomed all the new and renewing members who might be watching via Zoom.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the Treasurer's Report for May, 2024. Jim also presented a bill that the Club received from the law firm of Dinkelspiel Rasmussen & Mink, PLLC (Dinkelspiel) for \$65. The bill was for attorney Peter Baskind serving former Repeater Trustee Barry McDonald, W5CJ, with a demand letter. Former President Ty McMahan had approved this expenditure without consulting the BOD.

Joe Plunk recommended that the bill be paid with the BOD's discretionary funds. Mike Harrison made a motion to pay the bill with the BOD's discretionary funds, which was seconded by Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Lowenthal said that he would contact Dinkelspiel to see if any additional charges are forthcoming. The firm has billed the Club for a total of \$520, so far. Joe Plunk will ask Joe Lowenthal to make a report during the Old Business portion of the June BOD meeting.

Jim Martin also said that the bill for the Club's Zoom account would be due soon.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed without opposition.



Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, discussed the programs to be presented at the May Membership Meeting.

Joe Plunk said he was considering creating a Google form, on which Club members could indicate their availability for Field Day.

Joe Plunk said that the Bylaws Committee, headed by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, did not have a report for the BOD.

Jim Martin said that he has compiled all of the necessary data, and expects to submit the second part of the Club's filing with the Tennessee Secretary of State in the next few days. He will notify the BOD when the filing has been submitted.

There was a discussion about the filings that are made with the State of Tennessee, and the costs, which are included in the 2024 Budget.

Joe Lowenthal reported that none of the insurance organizations he contacted seemed interested in writing a Directors and Officers policy. He said that one organization denied to write the policy. Joe Plunk said he would contact additional insurance agencies, and report back to the BOD.

There was a discussion about Field Day, which will be held in June.

There is construction taking place near the usual Field Day site: Germantown Municipal Park. Joe Lowenthal said he had spoken with Fred Miller, KS2X, of the Nashoba Amateur Radio Club and Jelly Thompson, N4HLT, of the Germantown Fire Department. It is hoped that the park will be available for Field Day, but an alternate site at 1075 Mullins Station Road has been secured. It is unclear when the City of Germantown will make a decision on the use of the park.

There was a discussion about events, classes and demonstrations that might be offered at Field Day – in addition to the GOTA station, information desk and radio operations.

Joe Lowenthal said that he and Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, will operate a HF radio station during the Museum Ships on the Air event on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The station will be located at Poplar Estates Park and will operate from approximately 10am to 2pm. This will be an excellent opportunity for hams to gain experience as operators and loggers.

## Member Reports

President Joe Plunk said he was working on some changes to the format of the *Sparks* newsletter. Joe said he also wanted the BOD members to write articles for *Sparks* about their ham radio interests. Joe offered to help any BOD members who need training on Google Workspace.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal reported that registrations are now being accepted for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. 5 people have already registered and a total of 30 registrations are required. Joe said he reserved 2 tables at the Hamfest.

Secretary Perry Hayes reported that he will be out of town for the June 4<sup>th</sup> BOD meeting.

Treasurer Jim Martin had no additional information to report.

Director of Programs John Reiners had no additional information to report.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, reported that he may need to be out of town for the June 11<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting. He will keep the BOD updated. Scott said he would welcome input from the membership about the snacks they would like. Joe Plunk said he could add a field for snack preferences on the *Signal Report* form.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison reported that he is now using the DARC Google account for emailing publications. Mike has updated many areas of the deltaclub.org website and is also updating the *Sparks* newsletter. Mike plans to add a club calendar to the website.

Club Call Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, reported that he has updated the Club's repeater information with the Southeastern Repeater Association, our frequency coordinator. Dan is working to update the W4BS account to show him as the repeater trustee.

Dan reported on the Brunswick repeater site. Dan said that the 443.700 repeater has a short reach and lots of noise. The 146.82 repeater has experienced some noise that comes and goes.

Dan plans to purchase the equipment to update the site from DX Engineering. Dan said that he will need more cabling than originally estimated. Dan said that additional cabling and software may bring the total cost of his upgrades over his initial budget. An amplifier has been donated for use on the 443.700 repeater, so that may result in the cost of the upgrades being under budget. Dan will report back after the donated amplifier has been tested.

Dan said that there are currently two station IDs on the 146.82 repeater, which are conflicting with one another. One of the IDs needs to be turned off. He would like to obtain software and a cable to program the ICOM repeaters at the Brunswick site and at Methodist North. These are identical repeaters, and could be swapped out in case of a failure.

Joe Plunk said that the club has asked DX Engineering to set up our account on terms, so we could pay with a check. Otherwise, a club member would need to pay the bill with a credit card, and be reimbursed.

Joe Plunk reminded the BOD of some important upcoming events. Field Day will be held on June 22-23, and the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest will be on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:07pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 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  
April 9, 2024

The April Meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The President served as the chair and the Secretary was present. Club President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 56 members and visitors in attendance.

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, conducted a roll call of the Board of Directors (BOD).

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, 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, Club Call Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU (arrived late due to a work-related issue).

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ.

Secretary Perry Hayes declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recognized both the newest and the most experienced hams that were present.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to approve the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report, as published in the April edition of *Sparks*. The motion was seconded by Ned Savage, KA4BLL. The motion passed unanimously.

Club Call Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, gave a presentation on his proposed equipment upgrades to the 443.700 W4BS repeater. Dan suggested that the club purchase an amplifier, power supply, patch cables and lightning arrestors. The expected cost for these items is around \$2,422.

President Joe Plunk asked the membership to approve the expenditure. He said that the BOD did not want to change the amount budgeted for repeater maintenance, at this time.

There was a motion by Rick Kanschat, N0KYN, to approve the expenditure, seconded by Ham Hilliard. The motion passed without opposition.

No BOD members had any additional reports for the membership.

Ham Hillard gave a presentation on MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System). MARS is a program sponsored by the US Department of Defense. Civilian amateur radio operators use HF frequencies to support the military and civil authorities by providing communications in the case of an emergency, disaster, or when conventional forms of communication are not available. MARS members participate in communication exercises, nets, digital messaging, and provide phone patches to military aircraft. MARS operators also train their military counterparts on the setup and operation of HF radio equipment.

MARS became famous during the Vietnam war. They provided messaging and phone patch services that allowed service men and women to communicate with friends and loved ones back home.

For more information on MARS, Ham suggested the following websites:

[www.marsradioglobal.us](http://www.marsradioglobal.us)  
[tinyurl.com/AFMARS](http://tinyurl.com/AFMARS)  
[www.dodmars.org](http://www.dodmars.org)

Ham Hilliard then discussed Armed Forces Day. Each year, the Department of Defense hosts the Armed Forces Day Crossband Tests. This year's event will take place on May 11th. Military stations transmit on military frequencies, and listen on amateur radio frequencies. This gives amateur radio operators an opportunity to communicate with military stations.

Military station AFM4NPD will be operating at the Millington Fire Training Academy at NSA Mid South. The station will communicate with amateur radio stations on 4.575, 7.540 and 13.993 MHz. Operators and loggers are needed for this event. This is a great opportunity for hams interested in HF communications. Please contact Ham Hilliard for more information. His email address is [w4gmm@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4gmm@bellsouth.net).

President Joe Plunk announced that Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, is seeking members to serve on the Bylaws Committee. The Delta Club is also seeking individuals to fill the vacant BOD positions of Vice-President and Public Information Officer.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, gave a presentation on Programming Radios with Software. Many modern radios can communicate with your computer via a programming cable. The cable must be designed for your model of radio, and the installation of drivers on the computer may be necessary. Some radios now support communications with a computer, or mobile device, via bluetooth.

A software package is usually needed to program the radio. Chirp is a popular freeware package, and RT Systems is a popular publisher of commercial programming software. Many radio manufacturers also provide programming software, which can be downloaded from the manufacturer's website. Some radios, such as the RFinder B1+, can be programmed over the internet.

Programming software allows you to read the contents of the radio's memory into your device, make changes, and write the information back into the radio. John recommended to always read and save the current contents of your radio's memory before making any changes.

The programming software normally uses a spreadsheet-like interface for entering repeater and simplex frequencies into channels on the radio. Many software packages allow you to import and export frequency lists in .csv format.

A local frequency list is available on the [deltaclub.org](http://deltaclub.org) website. Frequency information can be found in repeater directories, on the internet, and on websites such as [repeaterbook.com](http://repeaterbook.com).

John demonstrated the programming of a radio using Chirp.

John also discussed some interesting amateur radio events sponsored by W9IMS, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club. The club will operate special events stations to celebrate the Indianapolis Grand Prix (May 5-11), Indianapolis 500 (May 20-26) and NASCAR Brickyard 200 (July 15-21). QSL cards and certificates are available for stations that make the necessary contacts during these events. More information is available at [qrz.com/db/w9ims](http://qrz.com/db/w9ims).

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, recognized the students from his most recent Technician Class License Class.

President Joe Plunk asked if the membership would be interested in an event where hams could get assistance in programming their handheld radios. The response was very positive.

With no other business pending, President Joe Plunk asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Ham Hilliard made the motion, which was seconded by Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU. The motion passed unanimously. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

The next scheduled Membership Meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club will be held on May 14, 2024 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Perry Hayes, N4GJ  
Secretary

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

**Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING**

There is no charge for classes, but the student is responsible for the purchase of the license manual and the \$15 ARRL FCC examination fee. The FCC implemented a \$35 Administration Fee on April 19, 2022.

If you want to take a class, send an email to Joe at [wa4ovo@gmail.com](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with the class name; ie, Tech Class, General Class, or Extra Class, on the Subject line and name, callsign if you have one, email address, and cellphone number in the text.

# *Licenses Earned in 2024 from Delta Classes*

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](mailto:wa4ovo@gmail.com) with Subject line: Tech, General or Extra Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text.**

The next **Technician** license class will probably start in late June or early July.

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**

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 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am-1:00PM. The first four classes were via Zoom. The 5<sup>th</sup> in-person class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. The two in-person classes were at the MPD Appling Farms Precinct. Eleven students and one audit finished the class.

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



Tech Class 2-24 testing



Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF on JO-97 Satellite demo

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

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





Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS demo



John KN4BVH on Digital Basics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



General Class 4-23



Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

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

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

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



**W4BS Trustee Corner**  
**By: Dan Fleek, AA4DF**

The world of Delta Club repeaters is pretty busy. If you want to get involved, please send me an email [trustee@deltacub.org](mailto:trustee@deltacub.org) or say "Hey!" at a meeting. There is always work to be done and it is not always about RF. The raspberry Pi world has opened up a lot of possibilities for low cost that we have just started to explore. We have a good foundation to build on.

I want to encourage everyone to use the repeaters. Go beyond the nightly check-in and throw out your call on the way to the store or to/from work. New hams are getting on the air with their first purchase usually being an HT or mobile. It is a way to connect with them and encourage their involvement with the local ham community. I have been several ham's first contact over the years on the local repeaters. When you are the first to throw out your call with "AA4DF listening", it breaks the ice with the new ham. It is also a good way for everyone to keep in touch outside of the monthly club meeting and learn about each other, pick up good advice on the next rig purchase, or get help with a problem.

See you on the air!

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 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm Central time and ends June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

**Packet Update**  
**By: James Butler, KB4LJV**

One of the best sites for frequency information is “radioreference”. They have a complete database for frequencies around the country. I like the way you can pick a state and it will display all the counties. You can select a county to see all the frequencies used by Police, fire, and public services, Databases include trunked radio systems, Amateur radio data, hospitals, schools, federal agencies, businesses, and many others. You can do an Amateur radio call sign lookup on the site. You can look these up by state and county. They also link you to “Broadcastify” which allows you to monitor selected frequencies on you computer. If you looking for a great radio database site you should check out “radioreference”. The web address is <https://www.radioreference.com/>

**Amateur Hardware Update**  
**By: James Butler, KB4LJV**

Many times when we work on equipment we need a way to hold our project. The table vice is perfect for this purpose. It will hold our work while we solder or install parts. Many types of small vices are available which make our job easier. One of the most common is the clamp vice. This vice mounts at the edge of the table for use. Another style is the vacuum vice that mounts to the slick surface of a table. One new style is the magnetic mount which mounts to a steel plate with a magnet. The flex vice has bendable arms with clips to hook up to your project. The classic PC board vice is made by “Panavise” which allows the board to be positioned in various ways. To see all the vice styles available check on Ebay. Do a search for “MINI VICE”.



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

## 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

### **President**

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

### **Vice President**

OPEN

### **Secretary**

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

### **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**

OPEN

### **Immediate Past President**

Ty McMahan, KX4MQ  
[KX4MQ@icloud.com](mailto:KX4MQ@icloud.com)  
901-833-7119

### **Repeater Trustee**

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

## Upcoming Events

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

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



## Memphis Area VHF/UHF Nets

<b>Name of Net</b>	<b>Frequency (MHz)</b>	<b>Offset/Tone</b>	<b>Local Time</b>	<b>Day of Week</b>
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



**Hamsource**  
 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)



**Chick-fil-A Paragon Place**  
 6282 Poplar Avenue  
 At Poplar and Massey  
 Memphis, TN 38119  
 W - 901.766.1875  
 C - 901.230.3043  
 Joe.Miller@cfafranchisee.com  
[chick-fil-a.com](http://chick-fil-a.com)

**Joe Miller**  
 Owner