

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 104 * September 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, September 10, 2024.

The meeting will be held at Mid-America Theological Seminary located at 2095 Appling Rd, Memphis, TN 38016. See the Delta Club webpage at: <http://www.deltaclub.org> for detailed instructions on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is in the back of the south end of the building. The meeting will be in the Betty Howard Special Events Room.

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in Room B201**
- **Ham 101 begins at 5:30 pm in Room B202**
 - Power Supplies by Ham Hilliard, W4GMM
- **Meeting Programs begin at 7:00 pm**
 - Alternate access to DMR and other modes without a repeater (DMR, DStar, Fusion etc.) by John Reiners, KN4BVH
 - PoTA and Huntsville Trip by Adam White, K4SPB

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

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

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

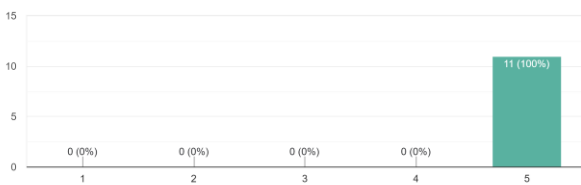
The next **Technician** license class will probably start in mid to late February 2025.

August Membership Meeting Signal Report

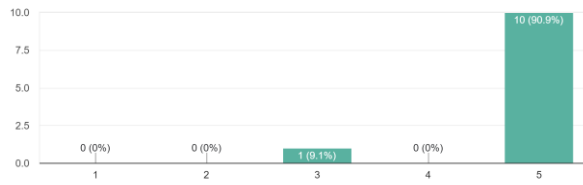
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 52 people on the sign in sheet and 11 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

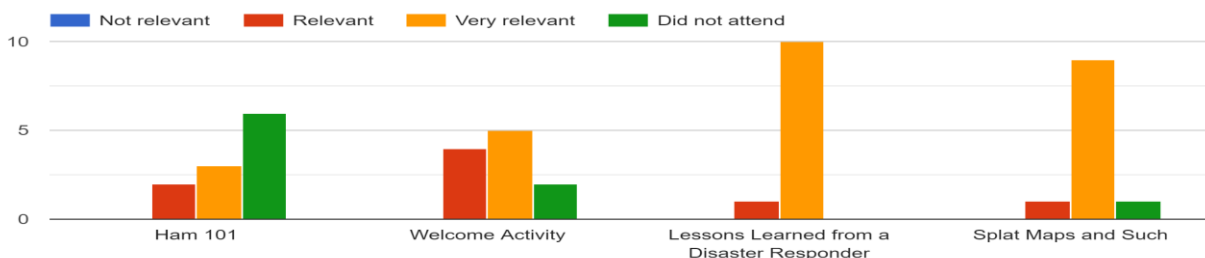
How satisfied were you with the event?
11 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



Fresh News and Articles from our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

September is here and fall is quickly approaching us! We have many things that are happening in our club.

We have lots of fun activities coming in the last few months of this year. Let's start by listing a few of them! Additional repeater enhancements, Bluff City Blues Bike Ride, Nominations for Board of Directors, Elections of Board of Directors, Prizes being given away, and a Potluck Dinner to name but a few things coming up in the next few months.

We will be forming a Nominations Committee this month to take nominations for any open board positions in the Club. Look for that committee to make a report back to the club with an update in October. One other fun thing we will be doing in October is assisting with the Bluff City Blues Bike Ride, October 12th. Please let us know if you might be interested in assisting with that.

I personally would like to invite you to our September membership meeting, I am excited about some of the work that the repeater team has been doing and they are planning on presenting additional work plans and goals during the September meeting. I would also love to see you at the October meeting as I personally would like to take some time during that meeting to hear what you our membership would like to see our club accomplish for you. November is our Election and Prize give away followed by December which traditionally is our Holiday Potluck with the club usually supplying the Ham for the meal.

Continuing from last month's positive new membership, 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

Vice President's Corner

Hey all, this year has flown by and it has been a wild ride for most. I am thankful for the chance to serve the club as the Vice-President in these times of ever-increasing technological advancements. My first trip to Huntsville showed many fancy, flashy new things to drool over. With that being said, new isn't for everyone. There was also a plethora of analog technology that worked just as well. That is what I like so much about this interesting hobby: there is something for everyone.

As some of us looked over the newest and “best” thing the bigger vendors had to offer, the youngest member on the trip went directly to search for some CW paddles. As we discuss different ways to go forward with the club, it is important to remember that we might not always see eye to eye. Some people like to stay in their shack while others go out and set up for POTA. My own father has amassed a great set up in his house while I like to mobile. While I was at Fort Knox with the Army this summer, I was able to talk to nearby people on 2 meters and 70 cm both simplex and checking in on their repeaters. To me, talking to others is pretty awesome. That is one of the reasons it’s important to keep our repeaters nice and active; you never know who might pop in to chat.

In the end, this hobby has so many facets, that everyone can find something they like. We live in an area of the Mid-South that is fortunate to have a healthy number of hams and a great amount of repeaters and simplex nets to be able to talk to others. Find something you are interested in, and take off with it. Don’t forget to ask around for anyone that is already into it or who might be interested. You never know who else might want to join you.

Tyler Henley. KQ4QEV
Vice President

Repeater Trustee’s Corner

I have a saying - Ham Radio is a lot like photography. You can do photography for \$50, but you are going to be disappointed with the results. The same goes with Ham Radio.

I got my Tech license in 1991. My first purchase was an entry level 2 meter HT for \$329. In today's dollars, that is about \$800. I wanted to do ham radio, so I found the money to spend. Imagine a ham looking at an \$800 radio now.

I had to set aside ham radio for awhile and picked it back up about 8 years ago. I was at Dayton Hamvention and saw the Baofeng UV5R for \$30. I grabbed it as the worst that could happen was that I was out \$30. Pretty low risk. It got me going until I could figure out what I wanted to do next. The Baofeng will work, but don't try to make a "ham shack" around it or make it your primary "Emcomm" device. You will be disappointed. Start saving money for something better.

Back to the photography analogy. In good photography, the camera body is not as important as a high quality lens. The lens for my camera that I used to shoot high school baseball and soccer cost 3 times as much as the camera. I got good results. Like the lens, the antenna is the most important thing on your radio system, but it is something that you can go cheap or spend little effort. Little effort in the antenna for a VHF/UHF setup can produce poor results getting into a repeater. Consider a J-Pole in the attic as temporary if you have the ability to put up something better. Invest in a SWR/Power meter. Do not hook up an external antenna in you house or car without checking SWR. Many an issue getting in to the repeater has been antenna issues,

including bad SWR. Antennas can go bad too. The SWR/Power meter was my first RF test tool that I purchased as a ham. Spend time and effort on your antenna and you will have good results.

Dan Fleek AA4DF
Repeater/Callsign Trustee

PACKET UPDATE

Amateurs are always looking for new software for their home computers. Many programs have been written for ham radio. One website which has lots of free software for downloading is “GITHUB”. They offer software for many different types of programs. One area on the site is the amateur radio section. This section has software for antenna design, digital communications software, software defined radio, logging software, and lots more. If you are looking to download and run additional ham radio software try this site out. The web address is <https://github.com/topics/amateur-radio>

James Butler
KB4LJV

AMATEUR HARDWARE UPDATE



Many amateurs work on their own equipment. Parts replacement usually requires the use of a soldering iron. The tips of the soldering irons are heated to melt solder to the PC board. The tips get dirty with flux and contaminants over time. Several ways can be used to clean and renew the soldering iron tips. By cleaning the tips regularly we have our soldering guns ready to do the repair. All methods of cleaning are done when the tip is hot. The method I use most is the wet sponge method. Rubbing the tip on the wet sponge will clean off the tip.

The second method

is a cleaning paste that the tip is put in and moved around. The third method is a ball of twisted wire that you rub the hot tip around in to renew the tip. Method four cost more but has a motor with wire brushes to clean the tip when it is inserted into the cleaner. All of these methods work well and can be bought



on Ebay. Do a search for “solder tip cleaner” to pick the one 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 BUSINESSAugust 1, 2024 through August 30, 2024

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$21,725.86	Minimum Daily Balance	\$20,414
Deposits & Credits	\$2,652.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$21,164
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$3,420.78 -		
Ending Balance	\$20,957.08		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

08/02	Deposit - Thank You	1,497.00
08/06	Deposit - Thank You	372.00
08/16	Deposit - Thank You	240.00
08/27	Deposit - Thank You	448.00
08/30	Deposit - Thank You	95.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$2,652.00

CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
08/12	1625	187.17	08/14	1628	406.61
08/07	1627 *	2,575.00	08/20	1629	252.00
Total Checks					\$3,420.78

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
08/02	23,222.86	08/12	20,832.69	08/20	20,414.08
08/06	23,594.86	08/14	20,426.08	08/27	20,862.08
08/07	21,019.86	08/16	20,666.08	08/30	20,957.08

Applications Received -Aug 2024		
(2) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$75.00
(2) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$20.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	Total Dues Received	\$95.00
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 - \$1497, \$372, \$240 (Includes \$1200 donation toward Huntsville Bus Trip)		\$2,109.00
2024 Huntsville Hamfest - Equipment Sales		\$448.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$2,557.00
	Total Deposits	\$2,652.00
Withdrawals		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1625 - Nashoba Amateur Radio Club - Reimbursement for half of Field Day 2024 food expenses.		\$187.17
Check #1627 - Cline Tours - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Fare		\$2,575.00
Check #1628 - Dan Fleek - Reimbursement for purchase of antenna from DX Engineering.		\$406.61
Check #1629 - Huntsville Hamfest - Admission to event.		\$252.00
	Total Payments	\$3,420.78

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,303.40	5.020 %	\$195.67	\$6.55
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$66.49	\$107.73	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	8/25/2024	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>
\$11,437.52	2.230 %	\$189.47	\$25.81
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$63.24	\$248.05	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	7/28/2024	11/26/2024	
▲ Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - September 3, 2024

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - September 3, 2024

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Meetings and Special Events, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan KQ4MQ.

Guests: None

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on September 3, 2024, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:43pm

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

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joe said Huntsville was a rousing success. He is looking forward to next year's trip.

Joe Plunk asked Secretary Perry Hayes to present the minutes from the August BOD meeting and August Membership Meeting. Perry said the minutes of the August BOD meeting had been published in the August issue of *Sparks* and approved at the August Membership Meeting. Perry said the minutes of the August Membership Meeting had been circulated to the BOD by email, and he went over some changes that were made after input from the BOD.

Perry Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes of the August BOD Meeting, as published in the August issue of *Sparks*. Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Perry Hayes also made a motion to approve the minutes of the August Membership meeting, as amended. Mike Harrison seconded the motion, The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, presented the membership applications that were received since the last BOD meeting. There was some discussion about the applications. Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, moved to accept all of the applications, and there was a second by Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Jim Martin presented the Treasurer's Report.

There was a discussion about the cost of the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. The trip turned a profit, thanks to a financial contribution made by a generous donor. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said the Huntsville Hamfest only charged the riders an entry fee of 12 dollars (instead of \$15).

Jim Martin said one of the Club's CDs will mature at the end of November. Joe Plunk said he would like to discuss the renewal of the CD at a future BOD meeting.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV. The motion passed without opposition.

Jim Martin said he would welcome suggestions about the items to be purchased for the door prize drawing in November.

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

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek reported on his visits to the Methodist North and Brunswick repeater sites. The new APRS antenna was installed at Methodist North. The system was working well, but stopped working later. Dan plans to check the antenna and coax.

Dan said there was still intermittent noise on the 82 repeater. There was an extra repeater at the Brunswick site, which Dan took home to test. He would like to swap repeaters to see if the noise is coming from the machine itself.

Dan said that Channel 24 is planning a climb at the Brunswick site soon. Dan said it may be a good opportunity to have our coax ends and connectors examined at a reduced cost. Dan will talk with Channel 24, and may order some new coax ends and connectors to possibly be installed during the climb.

Dan also discussed some equipment upgrades he would like to make on the 443.700 repeater. He will present these to the Club at the September meeting.

Joe Plunk asked Jim Martin about the Club's tax-exempt status. Jim said all the paperwork was filed. He will check with the State of Tennessee, and report back at a later meeting.

Director of Publications Mike Harrision, KM4MRW, said he is working on formatting changes to the *Sparks* newsletter. He recently paid for the renewal of the Club's internet hosting account, and will seek reimbursement.

Joe Plunk said that he is forming a Nominating Committee, which will certify the slate of candidates for the November elections, and present them to the Club. Joe will circulate emails to the Membership about making nominations.

Joe Plunk also said that the 2024 Bluff City Blues Ride will be held on October 12th. Our club has assisted with this bicycle ride in the past.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that there are no active training classes at this time. Joe said that Pat Lane, W4OQG, is in the hospital. Joe said Pat would enjoy receiving "Get Well" cards. Pat is good on QRZ. Pat's wife will deliver any cards sent to his home QTH.

Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB, said that he is working to get login credentials for the Club's social media sites.

There being no further business, and no further reports, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Perry Hayes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:08pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1 , 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
August 13, 2024

The August 2024 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 13, 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, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Publications Mike Harrison KM4MRW, Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV (on military duty).

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that three people passed their exams at the evening's FCC License Testing session (2 Technician and 1 General).

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

President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and the Treasurer's Report.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in the August issue of *Sparks*. The motion was seconded by Randy Redd, KQ4HJH. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members or Committee Chairpersons had additional reports for the Club.

Immediate Past-President Ty McMahan was not present and did not make a report.

Secretary Perry Hayes had no additional matters to report.

Treasurer Jim Martin had no additional matters to report.

Director of Programs John Reiners, KN4BVH, said that he was looking for volunteers to give presentations, or suggest topics.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that six of the students from the Technician Class License Class had passed their Technician exams. One student also passed the General Class exam.

Joe Lowenthal also reported on the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. The Delta Club will have 2 tables at the Hamfest, near the back door. The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church at 6:30am on August 17th. The bus will leave Huntsville after the grand prize drawing, and arrive back in Germantown around 7:45pm.

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

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

President Joe Plunk reported that 5 new hams checked-in on the Delta Club's Information Net the previous evening.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said that the new APRS antenna at the Methodist North site was working well.

Public Information Officer Adam White, K4SPB, had no additional matters to report.

Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, was absent on military duty, and did not make a report.

Joe Plunk said that Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, and the Bylaws Committee had no matters to report.

With no business pending before the Club, Director of Programs John Reiners introduced the evening's speakers.

Billy Freeman, WL4B, gave a presentation entitled "Disaster Response: Lessons Learned." Billy shared his experiences gained through 31 different deployments into disaster areas. Billy discussed the items that he takes with him on his deployments, which are important for his comfort, nutrition, physical and mental health, hygiene and safety.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek made a presentation on “Splat Maps.” Dan displayed splat maps which he created online at www.ve2dbe.com/rmonline_s.asp.

The maps showed the coverage area of the Delta Club’s repeaters. Dan discussed the variables that can affect the coverage area of our club’s repeaters, such as location, antenna height, transmit power, terrain, line loss and frequency.

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

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Tayloe Nickey, KQ4KLJ, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Rick Kanschat, N0KYN. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

The next regular Delta Amateur Radio Club Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 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

17 Technician

2 General

3 Extra

Note:

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSED CLASSES

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

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

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

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

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

CURRENT CLASSES

NONE

PREVIOUS CLASSES

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

An in-person Technician license class was held on six Monday nights on July 8, 15, 22, 29 August 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class was a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam. There were 12 students registered with eight completing the instructional period.

Congratulations to Technicians Chris Pechak KQ4TQT and Daniel Lees KQ4TQ9U who tested at the Delta Club July 9th ARRL test session. Bill Matthews KQ4UEO also tested early on-line for Technician. Congratulation to John Burwell KQ4UIC, and Dexter Haney KJ5HMT for earning their Technician license. Congratulations to Cody Hubley KQ4UJD for earning Technician and General.



Steve KK4VPT presenting



Perry N4GJ presenting



Satellite Demo by Rick WA4NVM

FM Digital Opns by John KN4BVH

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO.

The last class was demonstrations on FM Repeater Basics, satellite operations, APRS, and FM digital operations.

The equipment demonstrators are Rick WA4NVM on satellites, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS, John KN4BVH on FM digital radios and Joe WA4OVO on repeater basics. The classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Precinct, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

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

How to Print Your FCC License

1. Go to **<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>**
2. Enter your FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) and Password
 - a. If you do not know your FRN, go to Search box and click on License
Click on Amateur; Enter your callsign in Callsign box;
Your FRN is in center of page after your name
(If you do not know your Password, click on Contact Tech Support after Forgot your Password)
3. In When My Licenses screen comes up, click on **Now** in the green line reading “Change your paper authorization preferences [here](#), or download your official electronic authorizations now”
4. In Under Download Authorizations screen, highlight your callsign in the My Authorization area at the bottom left.
5. Click on ADD to right of the highlighted callsign.
6. Highlight your callsign in Authorization to Download and then click on Download on bottom right of screen.
7. If pop-ups are blocked, click on Allow One
8. Click Open at bottom and Print your License.

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Consider going to <https://www.qrz.com> and log in. Then enter your email address on QRZ page so other hams can contact you via email rather snail mail. Anyone looking for email addresses has to log in to QRZ to be able to see the ham's email address.

ARRL Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

YL News Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

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

Each YL Net has a designated “general discussion” section, which is a great time for hams of all experience levels to discuss various topics ranging from ham radio to gardening and then some! You do not have to be a YL to check in on the YL Net - everyone is welcome!

2024 Board of Directors

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Sparks Newsletter and Delta Club Information

SPARKS is published monthly by the Delta Amateur Radio Club and emailed to club members. All information published in this newsletter is provided as a service. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the Delta Amateur Radio Club nor its officers assume any liability resulting from errors or omissions. All correspondence may be mailed to:

Delta Amateur Radio Club *P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768

Please note that you must provide your name and call sign if you're requesting specific actions or personal follow-ups, and also be aware that any profane or mean-spirited comments will be unceremoniously discarded without consideration.

Delta Club Members Can Like Us/Follow Posts on Facebook!

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/darcmem>.

Upcoming Events

Bluff City Blues Ride – October 12th

Trumann Hamfest – October 26th

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	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
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456 Long Hill Avenue
Shelton, CT 06484

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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)



Joe Miller
Owner

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