

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 125 * June 2026



Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC)
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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* |
| 144.390 Digipeater | *DMR |

You are invited to attend our monthly membership meeting at 7 pm on: Tuesday, June 9th, 2026.

NEW LOCATION INFO!

The meeting location will be at **First Evangelical Church, West Entrance, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd** down the street from the Hilton Hotel near Poplar and I-240. See the Delta Club webpage at: <http://www.deltaclub.org> for detailed instructions with pictures on how to find the correct entrance. Parking is available at the left side parking lot with the West entrance being at the far end of the parking lot. The meeting will be in room E234.

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
 - Tech Support
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Part One – Ed Fong - Tri-Band
 - Part Two – Field Day
 - Part Three – 146.82 Repeater

FCC 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 FCC testing, or FCC FRN information, please contact:

Don Strahl KZ4GJ, VE Liaison
Phone: 901-833-1270
Email: KZ4GJ.Don@gmail.com

Club Announcements!

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 22, 2026

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to go to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 22, 2025. The fare is \$100 if paid by July 1st and \$120 after July 1st. A spouse or child living at the same address can accompany a full fare rider for \$75. The fare includes the \$15 Hamfest entry ticket. There will be a breakfast biscuit sandwich, water, sodas, chips, and fruit on the bus going to Huntsville, during the day and whatever is left for the trip back. There are no refunds, but you can sell your seat to someone else if you cannot go. Let me know.

Cash, checks or Square processing will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club. You can pay at a meeting or at Field Day. You can also send your check to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis, TN 38120. Please include your name, callsign, cell phone number, email address and whether you want ham, sausage or plain biscuit.

Reservations will be on a first come first paid basis.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, TN by 6:30am. The bus will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to Germantown Baptist Church approximately 7:45pm.

Germantown Baptist Church has asked us to park in the back on the northeast side of the church so there will be security cameras on the cars.

The Huntsville Hamfest website is www.hamfest.org



Pay for the trip online!



Pay for your Training online!

Delta Club Training

Tech Class 3-26 – July 13 – August 17, 2026

A Technician license class is being planned on six Monday nights. Need ten students registered to make it an effective class. A new format is proposed using Ham Radio Prep videos that each student will view during the week and a question and answer (Elmer) session will be on the following three Monday nights. The first class will cover a local introduction and the first two HRP lessons. The first four classes are to be on July 13, 20, 27, August 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The fifth class (August 10 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC Technician exam. The sixth class (August 17 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be equipment demonstrations on repeater basics, APRS, satellites and digital basics (DStar, Fusion, DMR, and Echolink). The location will be at First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd, West Entrance, Room A124

The student will purchase the Ham Radio Prep program through the Delta Club. There is an opportunity for a discounted price.

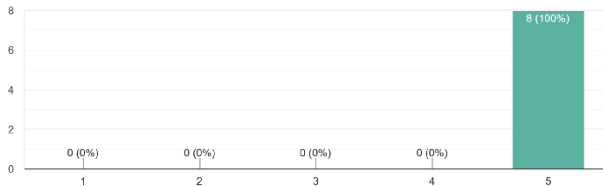
Caution: the **Technician question pool changes July 1, 2026.**

To register for the class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject: Tech Class, and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

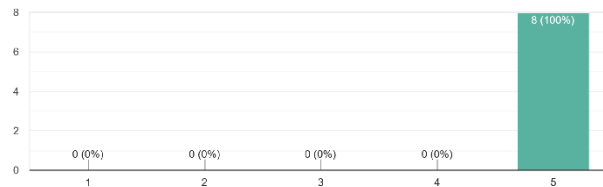
May Membership Meeting Signal Report

I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 38 people on the sign in sheet and 8 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.

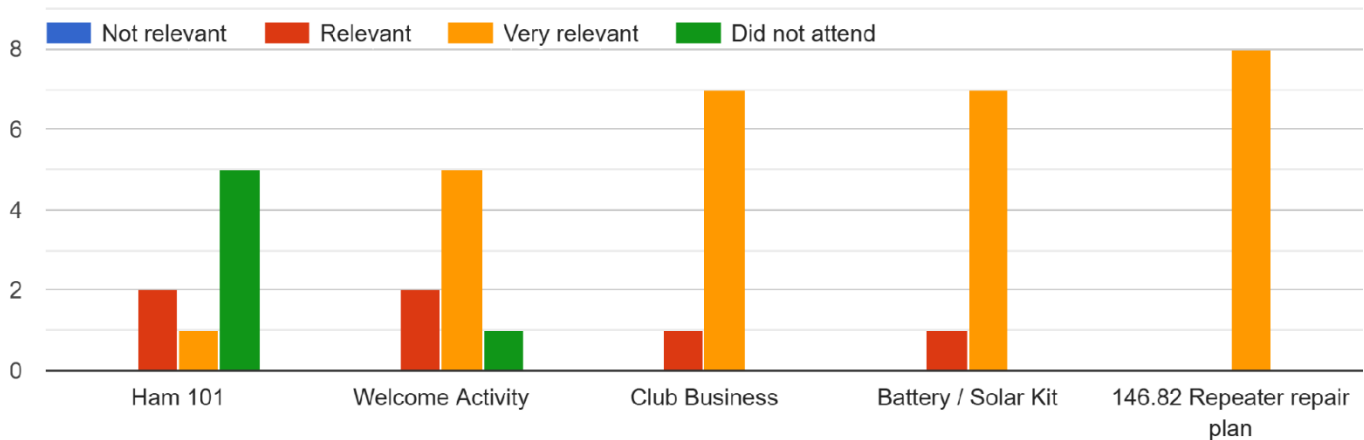
How satisfied were you with the event?
8 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



What would you like to see in the Ham 101 time slot?

1 response

Radio programming would be really helpful for us new folks.

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

As the Amateur Radio Community across the nation approaches our annual event that we call Field Day (it is June 27th and 28th) we are reminded that the event is our time to open our hobby and show it off. I would like to take a few minutes to share a few statistics that I have learned over the past weeks. I learned these statistics in preparation for the discussion regarding the club's 146.82 MHz repeater. Last month at the membership meeting we discussed the overview of the plan to bring needed repairs to this machine. At the membership meeting this month (June) we are planning to bring the action plan and proposed expenses to the membership to discuss and approve.

On the note of having a discussion around expenses and repairs, I would ask you as a member, to commit to attending the membership meeting next week. We as a board want to hear your input on the plan for the repeater repair. So, with that, here are some interesting statistics. If you draw a 60 mile circle around the repeater there are 4,313 Amateur Licensees inside that circle. If you calculate the square miles inside that same circle it is 11,300. If you count the number of counties touched by that 60 mile circle it is 5 (or more depending on how you count). Understandably, a 60 mile circle is a little bit of a reach for a radio signal. So, lets step the circle down to 35 miles. Inside a 35 mile circle from the repeater there are 3,353 Amateur Licensees. The circle encompasses 3,848 square miles.

So, after sharing those statistics with you I would like to ask you our member to do three things:

1. Please attend the membership meeting on Tuesday, June 9th and let us know your thoughts on the repeater project. We are currently meeting at First Evangelical Church at 735 Ridge Lake Blvd.
2. Please come out to Field Day. You do not have to stay for the entire event, but please come see us. We would love to see you after the evening meal. If not after the meal, there are many of us who work the overnight hours (that time is personally my favorite time) so there is plenty of time to come visit.
3. Share our club. Ask a friend that has expressed an interest in the hobby to come see what it is all about. Field Day is a great time to show all aspects of the hobby off, but even if you are unable to attend, just ask them to attend a meeting and get to meet the fantastic, diverse membership that we have in our club. I would be remiss if I did not ask you to remind your guests that they are able to get their license via the excellent training that we offer as a club. Joe Lowenthal has a Technician class starting up on July 13th.

I would like to ask that you please renew your membership. If you have already renewed, thank you. If you have not please come join us at the membership meeting this week and let us

work with you to get your membership renewed. At twenty dollars it is a fantastic value. We have electronic payment acceptance means now, or if you prefer, bring your cash, check to the meeting and let us get your membership renewed. If you are unable to make the membership meeting and would like to renew your membership, please send us an email and we will work to get it all done electronically.

Lastly, please ask one person to join our club and have fun with us! We look forward to meeting them soon!

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

Program's Corner
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

Our club president, Joe Plunk NS4E knows I work a variable schedule so he asked me if I would be willing to meet one of our prospective tower climb company's representatives Wednesday afternoon (6/3/2026) and I was lucky enough to be available, so I happily agreed on short notice. (Apologies again to Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO and all other participants for the abrupt disruption to the MEDMERS net). ARCO Towers and Contracting based in Jonesboro, AR wanted to sweep the hardlines before providing a full and accurate quote for the tower climb. I met one of their climbers, Toby, who arrived with his Anritsu S331D and his decades of experience. While I unlocked doors and turned lights on he immediately began visually inspecting the tower. [Read more by following this link.](#)

Adam

K4SPB

Repeater Trustee's Corner
Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

It's June and that means Field Day is coming up Jun 27th-28th. I encourage all to attend, even if you have no license or a Technician class license. We will be at the pavilion at Germantown Municipal Park. Everyone will have the opportunity to get on the air on Field Day. It is a good way to see what HF communications and logging is like. Want to learn about setting up antennas? Come by the park on Saturday morning. Want to operate HF? We will be there from 1pm that Saturday until 1pm Sunday. Yes, if you want to operate at 2am on Sunday, you can. There will be plenty of experienced radio operators there to help you and answer any questions. A sign-up page will be published soon for reserving your slot at an HF station.

At the meeting next week, we will discuss the recommendations for the Brunswick site. We are getting closer to tackling the issues with the 146.820 repeater.

See you at the meeting and Field Day!

Dan

AA4

Field Day 2026

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Field day 2026 is upon us. We are excited again this year to be working with the Neshoba ARC. Our location is the same location as last year. We are planning on running as a 5A this year with a dedicated CW station, a dedicated 20m station, a dedicated digital station, an 80/10m station and a 40/15m station. Most of the stations are planning on running wire antennas, with 20m running a vertical. We will have a dedicated “Get on the Air” GoTA station again this year with plans to add VHF/ UHF to the GoTA station. We are planning on running the N3FJP networked logging software to allow us all to be aware of duplicates. We do plan on having a Saturday night dinner. Please look for more details on that.

Please look for a sign up form to come out so that you can let us know if you are planning to attend and so that we can plan for meals appropriately.

We usually are wrapping up the event by noon local on Sunday, even though the event time window runs a bit longer. Setup begins on Saturday morning.

- Official time window: June 27 1800 UTC (1 PM CDT) to June 28 2059 UTC 3:59 CDT
- Location: Municipal Park 1900 S Germantown Rd Germantown, TN
- More information: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>
- Scoring and Rules: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>
- ARRL Field Day Locator Call Sign: W4BS
- ARRL Field Day Locator name: Delta & Nashoba Amateur Radio Clubs
- Scoring will be submitted as: Delta & Nashoba Amateur Radio Clubs
- Field Day classification: 5A

Approximate site layout is shown below.



Youtube Addict

- **Can you run 10M-40M from this Man Pack?**

<https://youtu.be/VUSXYBKQDnE>

- **The Truth about Ham Radio COAX**

https://youtu.be/ZT2_aSIKTZE

- **Rapid Fire POTA: How I Stacked 18 Contacts Back-to-Back**

<https://youtu.be/CbEOoacu9U0>

- **Is your multiband HF antenna truly multiband ?**

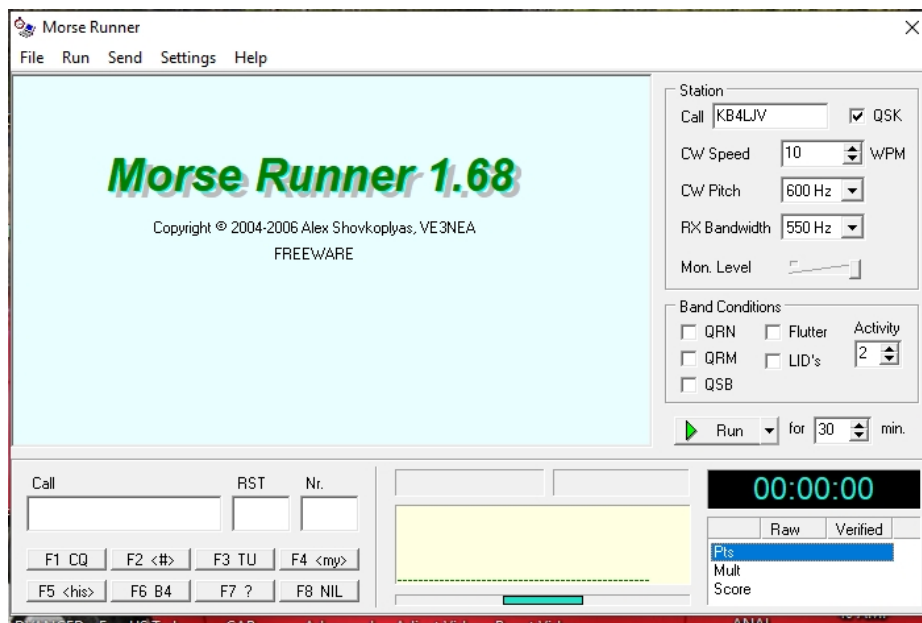
<https://youtu.be/MtSN9YJSDdc>

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many times, amateurs want to improve their Morse code skills. A program called “MORSE RUNNER” allows you to simulate Morse code contacts. You run the program and put in your callsign to start the program. Your code transmit speed can be set in a range of 10 to 60 WPM. Parameters can also be set for the pitch, bandwidth, and monitor level. This also improves your Morse code skills because you can set many parameters you will encounter on the bands.

On the receive side of the program parameters can be set to simulate QRM, QRN, QSB, and flutter on the band. How much activity is on the band can also be selected. A clock display shows how much time you have spent making contacts and how many logged. The program even allows you to record audio of your activity in a “wav” audio file so you can go back to review contacts. This Morse code simulator is a great way to improve your Morse code skills. The web address to get the program is <https://www.dxatlas.com/morserunner/>



James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Most amateur radios we get today need a 12 Volt DC power source. The current level we need is based on the radio. QRP radios which are 5 to 10 watts can use a 3 to 5 amp power supply. Medium power radios that output from 20 to 50 watts need a power supply of 8 to 12 amps max output. The common 100 watt output radios will use a power supply of 20 to 30 amps. Check your radio information to see the recommendation for your new radio. The larger the power supply the more it cost.

Power supplies can also be analog output which uses heavy transformers or new lighter switching power supplies. Older power supplies used big heavy transformers and regulator circuits to get 12 Volts DC. These are very RF quiet and do not show as interference on your receiver. Switching power supplies can produce stray RF that shows up on certain frequencies on your receiver depending on the switching frequency of the power supply. Additional features also show up on power supplies. They may add a voltmeter, amp meter, cigarette lighter style plug, extra hookup terminals, and power pole connectors. This adds to the cost of producing the

power supplies. I like a voltmeter on the supplies I buy. Most supplies have a way to slightly adjust the voltage out. You can dial up the voltage to 13.8 volts DC or down to 12 volts or less. You can also search at hamfests or on eBay for used power supplies. Check with fellow hams to find out what they run and how it works for them with their radio equipment. Go to eBay and do a search for “ham radio power supply” to see all the new and used power supplies they offer.



40 AMPS CONTINUOUS



James Butler
KB4LJV

DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Paul Broom, KY4MX

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 Paul Broom, KY4MX at **treasurer@deltaclub.org** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

| LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| May 1, 2026 through May 29, 2026 | | | | | |
| SUMMARY | | | | | |
| Beginning Balance | | \$21,005.14 | Minimum Daily Balance | | \$20,717 |
| Deposits & Credits | | \$1,893.00 + | Average Monthly Statement Balance | | \$21,335 |
| Withdrawals | | \$0.00 - | | | |
| Fees | | \$0.00 - | | | |
| Automatic Transfers | | \$0.00 + | | | |
| Checks | | \$419.02 - | | | |
| Ending Balance | | \$22,479.12 | | | |
| DEPOSITS & CREDITS | | | | | |
| 05/04 | Deposit - Thank You | | | | 25.00 |
| 05/20 | Deposit - Thank You | | | | 100.00 |
| 05/21 | Square Inc Sq260521 Delta Amateur | | | | 100.00 |
| 05/21 | Deposit - Thank You | | | | 1,030.00 |
| 05/26 | Deposit - Thank You | | | | 20.00 |
| 05/26 | Deposit - Thank You | | | | 618.00 |
| Total Deposits & Credits | | | | | \$1,893.00 |
| CHECKS | | | | | |
| <u>Date</u> | <u>Check No.</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Check No.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
| 05/15 | 1681 | 120.00 | 05/21 | 1691 | 6.39 |
| 05/20 | 1690 * | 292.63 | | | |
| Total Checks | | | | | \$419.02 |
| * Break In Check Number Sequence. | | | | | |
| DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY | | | | | |
| <u>Date</u> | <u>Balance</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Balance</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
| 05/04 | 21,030.14 | 05/20 | 20,717.51 | 05/26 | 22,479.12 |
| 05/15 | 20,910.14 | 05/21 | 21,841.12 | | |

| Applications Received - April 2026 | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| (2) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues | | \$30.00 |
| (0) 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 | \$50.00 |
| Other Deposits & Credits | | |
| (1) ARRL Club Commission - New Members - Family (\$20.00) | | \$25.00 |
| (0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00) | | \$0.00 |
| Estate Sales | | \$618.00 |
| Huntsville - Bus Fares | | \$200.00 |
| Donations - Repeater Repair | | \$1,000.00 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | Total Other Deposits | \$1,843.00 |
| | | |
| | Total Deposits | \$1,893.00 |
| Withdrawals & Debits | | |
| None | | \$0.00 |
| | Total Withdrawals | \$0.00 |
| Checks | | |
| Ch#1681 - Joe Plunk - Club Hotspot | | \$120.00 |
| Ch#1690 - Scott Adams - Expo and Meeting Refreshments | | \$292.63 |
| Ch#1691 - Josh Cunningham - Meeting Refreshments | | \$6.39 |
| Ch#1689 - Joe Plunk - Zoom renewal (\$97.87 outstanding) | | \$0.00 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | Total Payments | \$419.02 |

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Available Balance | <u>INTEREST RATE</u> | <u>YTD INTEREST</u> | <u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u> |
| \$5,700.83 | 3.680 % | \$103.08 | \$5.75 |
| SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481 | | | |
| ISSUE DATE | LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID | PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST | |
| 10/28/2022 | \$50.92 | \$227.01 | |
| ISSUE VALUE | DATE LAST INTEREST PAID | MATURITY DATE | |
| \$5,000.00 | 5/22/2026 | 9/21/2026 | |
| ▲ Hide More Details | | | |

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Available Balance | <u>INTEREST RATE</u> | <u>YTD INTEREST</u> | <u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u> |
| \$12,148.58 | 2.960 % | \$177.98 | \$39.47 |
| SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503 | | | |
| ISSUE DATE | LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID | PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST | |
| 10/28/2022 | \$88.34 | \$448.45 | |
| ISSUE VALUE | DATE LAST INTEREST PAID | MATURITY DATE | |
| \$11,000.00 | 4/22/2026 | 5/22/2027 | |
| ▲ Hide More Details | | | |

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes June 2, 2026

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - June 2, 2026

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs, Adam White K4SPB, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: None.

Guests: None.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on June 2, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:34pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the BOD members for their service to the club.

Joe Plunk asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Secretary's Minutes, which were circulated by email. There were none. Tyler Henley made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Paul Broom reported that no membership applications had been received since the May BOD meeting. Three new members who submitted their applications online have now paid their dues.

Paul Broom presented the June Treasurer's Report, covering transactions for the month of May.

Joe Plunk said that Zoom has recognized DARC as a non-profit organization. As a result, the cost of the Zoom license has been cut by almost half. Joe said that DARC can pocket the savings, or we can pay the same amount for Zoom and obtain a second license.

Joe Lowenthal made a motion that DARC pay for only one Zoom license, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Broom said that the DARC Certificate of Deposit (CD) with an account number ending in *8481 received an interest payment during May.

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

There was a discussion about bills that are expected to be presented in June.

Joe Plunk, Adam White and John Reiners discussed the program topics for Ham 101 and the June Membership Meeting.

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

Joe Plunk asked everyone to send their *Sparks* articles to Johnathan Urschel as soon as possible.

Joe Plunk led a discussion about Field Day. Joe and Fred Miller, KS2X, the President of Nashoba Amateur Radio Club (Nashoba), have been working on the details for this year's event.

Joe showed a map of Germantown Municipal Park, and indicated where the antennas and stations would be located.

Joe said that Nashoba will be responsible for providing the food this year. DARC will split the costs of the food with Nashoba.

The Field Day call will be W4BS and the GOTA Station call will be W4NRC.

Joe Plunk said that N3FJP software will be used for logging, and he will set up a network at the site. Joe hopes that computer logging will be available at the GOTA Station.

Joe Plunk and Adam White talked about educational programs to be offered during Field Day at the Germantown Community Library.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek then led a discussion about the proposed tower climb at the 146.82 repeater site in Brunswick.

Dan and his team are recommending to the membership that the VHF transmit, VHF receive and UHF antennas all be replaced, as well as all the connectors and the coax jumpers at the top of the tower. Dan says that this work should solve the noise problems with the repeater, and keep everything running smoothly for many years to come. After evaluating the work that could be done at the site in one day, Dan said that a two-day climb will be necessary.

Dan and his team are working on a firm cost estimate, which will be presented to the membership at the June meeting. The membership will vote on whether to approve the expenditure.

There was a discussion about the expected cost of the climb. Dan Fleek, Joe Plunk and Adam White were involved in a discussion about the cost of some of the materials. There was also a discussion

about seeking a grant from the ARRL Foundation. There was also a discussion about gathering information and graphics for the grant application.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a contract has been signed with Cline Tours for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 22nd.

Joe Lowenthal said that two people have signed up for the next Technician Class License Class, scheduled to begin on July 13th and end on August 17th. The class will meet at First Evan on six Monday nights. The first 4 classes will meet from 7pm-9pm. The fifth class is a review of the question pool and opportunity to take the FCC exam, which will meet from 6:15pm to 9 or 9:30pm. The last class will be an equipment demonstration from 6:15pm-9:30pm.

Ham Radio Prep will be used as the educational material for the class. Students will be required to pay \$30 for a license, but may continue to use Ham Radio Prep after the class is over. DARC has received copies of the Technician and General Class materials for instructor use.

Paul Broom discussed the Square site he set up to accept online payments for dues, training and the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. Paul and Johnathan Urschel discussed the graphics on the site.

Paul talked about the insurance claim to be filed for the repeater at the University of Memphis site. Paul and Dan Fleek will get together to share information.

Joe Plunk led a discussion about his plan to gather photographs, videos and documents regarding the Brunswick repeater site. There is a folder on the DARC Google Workspace where this material will be stored. Joe said that one member has already shared a lot of data. There was a discussion about creating a link, so members could easily drop this material into the folder.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had additional comments. He said he was looking forward to Field Day.

Dan Fleek said that the tower climb in Brunswick will be a big commitment, but he is looking forward to it. He is also excited about Field Day.

Adam White discussed his work on the ARRL Foundation grant application for the 146.82 tower climb.

Johnathan Urschel talked about his efforts to remove unnecessary information from the *Sparks* newsletter. There was a discussion about information that could be deleted.

John Reiners said that he had some additional information on solar power that was not mentioned during his presentation at the May meeting. He plans to include that information in an article for the June issue of *Sparks*.

Joe Plunk suggested that everyone ask someone to join DARC.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2026 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 19, 2026

The May 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 19th at First Evangelical Church (First Evan). 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 38 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: None

Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves, and to discuss their plans for Field Day.

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

Don Strahl, KZ4GJ, moved to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in *Sparks*. There was a second by Dr. Randy Redd, KQ4HJH. The motion passed without opposition.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD Members had announcements.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal announced that DARC will be offering a bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 22nd. The fare is currently \$100, but will increase to \$120 if not paid by June 30th. Those

interested may pay by check, made payable to DARC, at club meetings and Field Day. Cash and electronic payments will also be accepted at club meetings.

The fare includes transportation to and from Huntsville, an admission ticket to the hamfest, two Danver's breakfast biscuits (ham, sausage or plain), sodas, water, cookies, crackers and fruit on the way down, during the day, and whatever is left on the trip back.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue, no later than 6:30am. The bus may leave at 6:20am, if the biscuits arrive from Danver's by then. The bus will arrive at the Von Braun Center around 9:45am, and back up to the loading dock. Riders will be able to return to the bus during the day to rest, eat, drink or store their purchases. The bus will leave after the 4:00pm grand prize drawing, and should arrive back in Germantown around 7:45-8:00pm.

DARC will need 35 riders to break even on the cost of the bus trip.

Joe Lowenthal also said that a Technician Class License Class will begin on July 13th and meet at First Evan on six Monday nights, through August 17th. The first four sessions will run from 7-9pm and the fifth and sixth sessions will run from 6:15-9:30pm. The fifth session will be a review of the question pool and FCC exam, and the sixth session will be an equipment demonstration. Joe said that the question pool will change on July 1st, so students purchasing a copy of the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual should get the sixth edition.

Joe said that the format of the class is changing. Ham Radio Prep will now be used as the study material, and students will need to pay \$30 for access to the website. The classroom sessions will be conducted by elmers, who will answer questions about the week's subjects.

Those interested should send an email to Joe Lowenthal at wa4ovo@gmail.com. Please use "Tech Class" on the subject line, and include your name, email address and cell phone number.

Treasurer Paul Broom said that he is now able to accept electronic payments at club meetings. A web page for electronic payments is currently in development.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that the Mid-South DMR Net continues to gain in popularity. The net meets at 9:00pm each Wednesday night on Brandmeister TG 31471 (Memphis Metro). This talkgroup is accessible via the DARC 443.700 DMR repeater on TS 1 (CC 1).

After a short break, Joe Plunk introduced the evening's speaker, John Reiners. John gave a presentation on Portable Solar Power.

John discussed his camper project, where he used solar power to operate his HF radio station, lights, computers and other electronic devices. John showed how he estimated his power consumption, battery capacity and solar panel needs. He discussed the components of his solar system, including the solar panels, batteries, solar controller, circuit breakers, wiring and rolling tool box. John also discussed the solar system he installed in his Jeep.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek then led a discussion about the DARC 146.820 repeater site in Brunswick. Dan was joined by Adam White, Joe Plunk and Allen Wood, N5ALN, who attended the meeting via ZOOM.

Dan said that the 146.820 repeater is having considerable problems with scratchiness and static. Testing has been completed on the equipment in the shack, and it has been determined that the source of the problems is up

on the tower. The heliax feed line may have been damaged by arcing from the television transmission line, the antennas may have been damaged, and/or there may be problems with the connectors and jumpers that attach the antennas to the feed line.

A tower climb will be necessary to address these problems. Dan and the panel recommended that the heliax feed line be inspected and that DARC pay to have as many connectors, jumpers and antennas replaced during the climb as possible. There was also a discussion about using different antennas at different levels of the tower to handle the transmit and receive functions of the repeater.

Joe Plunk said that the team will work during May to get firm estimates for the cost of the climb, the connectors, the jumpers and the antennas. At the June meeting, the club membership will be asked to approve the expenditure.

There was discussion about applying for an ARRL Foundation grant, which might pay for some of the costs associated with this repeater project. Joe Plunk asked anyone with grant writing experience to please contact him.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Don Strahl made the motion, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at First Evangelical Church, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

Delta Ham License Training, 2026

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 2026 from Delta Classes

4 Technician

1 General

4 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. This manual will change on July 1, 2026.

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

PROPOSED CLASSES

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

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

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2026.
The next **Extra** license class will probably start in early January 2027.

Tech Class 3-26 – July 13 – August 17, 2026

A Technician license class is being planned on six Monday nights. Need ten students registered to make it an effective class. A new format is proposed using Ham Radio Prep videos that each student will view during the week and a question and answer (Elmer) session will be on the following three Monday nights. The first class will cover a local introduction and the first two HRP lessons. The first four classes are to be on July 13, 20, 27, August 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The fifth class (August 10 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC Technician exam. The sixth class (August 17 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be equipment demonstrations on repeater basics, APRS, satellites and digital basics (DStar, Fusion, DMR, and Echolink). The location will be at First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd, West Entrance, Room A124

The student will purchase the Ham Radio Prep program through the Delta Club. There is an opportunity for a discounted price.

Caution: the **Technician question pool changes July 1, 2026.**

To register for the class, send an email to wa4ovo@gmail.com with Subject: Tech Class, and name, email address and cellphone number in text.

CURRENT CLASSES

None

PREVIOUS CLASSES

Tech Class 2-26 – February 23 – April 20, 2026

A Technician license class was held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 20. The first four classes were Zoom while the 5th and 6th classes were in person. The 5th class was a review of the 399 questions of the question pool and to take the FCC exam. There were 13 students in the first class. Four students completed the class. Congratulations to Rebecca KR4KNE , now N4BEX, who earned Tech and General at the Delta Club test session on March 10th. Congratulations to Dylan KR4LCK, Perry KJ4PJE and Laura KJ5PJK on earning their Technician licenses.

The instructors were Bobby KD5BS, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Paul KA4X, Don KZ4GJ and Joe WA4OVO.



Rick WA4NVM on a satellite contact with Patrick WD9EWK on SO-50



Rick KJ4NWQ presenting APRS

The equipment demonstrators during the sixth class were Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites; Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS; and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on repeater basics and digital basics of D-STAR, Fusion, DMR, and Echolink.

Extra Class 1-26 – January 3 – February 21, 2026

An Extra Class license class was held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 3, 10, 31, February 7 and 14. There was not a class on January 17 and 24th to allow the students and presenters to participate in Swamp Stompers and Winter Field Day. Ten students started the class: Gary KC1OXM, Michael KQ4QLJ, Tim KQ4FBF, Larry KQ4DFU, Barry KC4SVR, Rajesh KR4CPZ, Raul, Jim KC1VAS, William KQ4UEO, Barbara WA5CFB and Johnathan KQ4WAQ. Six students completed the class. The instructors were Don KZ4GJ, David KY4FH, Josh KQ4IOS, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO.

Congratulations to Larry KQ4DFU who passed his Extra exam at the Delta Club FCC test session on January 13th. Congratulations to Johnathan KO4WAQ and Rajesh KR4CPZ (now NA4AH) on upgrading to Extra at the in-person FCC exam on Saturday, February 21st at Germantown Fire Station #4. The Delta Club ARRL VEC team provided the FCC test session. Congratulations to Jim KC1VAS who upgraded on March 7th at his Port City ARC test session.

Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

How to Print Your FCC License

How to Print Your FCC License

1. Go to <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>
2. Enter your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and Password and click on Submit.
 - A. If you do not know your FRN, go to [License Search](#)
<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>
 - B. Under License Search in center of page, to the right of By Call Sign, enter your callsign and click on Search. (Your FRN is in the center of the page.)
 - C. If you do not know your Password, click on Contact Tech Support after Forgot your Password?
3. When My License screen comes up, go to the green shaded box with Download your official authorization [here](#). Click on here.
4. Under Download Authorizations screen, highlight your callsign in the My Authorization area at the bottom.
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 the screen. (If pop-ups are blocked, click on Allow One.)
7. Click on the printer icon to print your License.
8. Sign 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. If you go by your middle name or a nickname, you can add a Nickname. After signing in to QRZ, hover over your callsign. Click on Edit (CALLSIGN). Click on Update the basic name. Go to Nickname. Enter your nickname. Go to bottom of page.

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

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

2026 Board of Directors

President

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

Treasurer

Paul Broom, KY4MX
treasurer@deltacub.com
901-517-1490

Director of Programs

Adam White, K4SPB
programs@deltacub.org
817-201-3857

Immediate Past President

VACANT

Vice President

Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV
ghenley@southaven.org
901-827-5859

Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO
wa4ovo@gmail.com
901-628-4318

Director of Meetings & Special Events

Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS
Joshcham90@yahoo.com
901-679-9303

Repeater Trustee

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

Secretary

Perry Hayes, N4GJ
secretary@deltacub.org
901-626-2279

Director of Publications

Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ
publications@deltacub.org
901-409-3682

Public Information Officer

OPEN

Club Historian

John Reiners, KN4BVH
KN4BVH@comcast.net
901-541-0310

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

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) | 443.200 | +(107.2) | 8:00p | Daily |
| Drive Time Chatter | 146.850 | -600hz no PL tone | 6:30am-7:45am and 4:45pm-5:45pm | Daily |
| Drive Time Chatter | 443.200 | +5MHz, +(107.2) | 6:30am-7:45am and 4:45pm-5:45pm | Daily |
| Elmer Net | 147.030 | +(107.2) | 7:00p | Sunday |
| Desoto County EMA | 146.910 | +(107.2) | 8:30p | Monday |
| MedMERS Net | 146.820 | -(107.2) | 12:00p | Wednesday |
| Midsouth DMR Net | DMR – TG31471 | | 9:00pm | Wednesday |
| Crowley's Ridge ARC | 147.150 | +(107.2) | 8:30p | Wednesday |
| Crowley's Ridge ARC | 145.450 | +(107.2) | 8:30p | Wednesday |
| Tipton ARS | 145.490 | +(100.0) | 7:30p | Thursday |
| Olive Branch ARC | 147.255 | +(79.9) | 8:30p | Thursday |
| OBARC Linked | 444.700 | +(107.2) | 8:30p | Thursday |
| ARES Training Net | 146.850 | -(107.2) | 9:00p | Thursday |
| TN Statewide DMR Net | DMR – TG3147 | | 8:00p | Friday |
| Four-Forty Net | 443.200 | +(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



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

DARC Meeting: Second Tuesday of every month

at First Evangelical Church, West Entrance, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd

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





Joe Miller
 Owner

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