

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 127 * August 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, August 11th, 2026.

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.deltacub.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 p.m. in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
 - Tech Support
- **Membership Meeting begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Part One - Mary Jean, KY4FB, on the ARRL Teacher Institute
 - Part Two - 146.82 repeater project update

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!

Until further notice, our current monthly meeting location is:

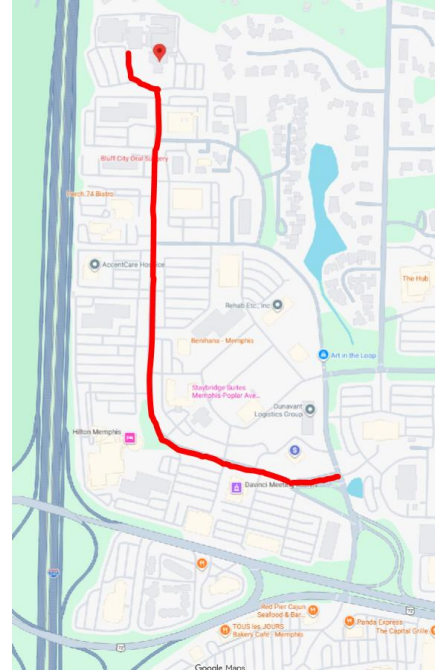
First Evangelical Church
735 Ridge Lake Blvd
Memphis, TN 38120

Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Ham 101 begins at 6:00 p.m., and FCC testing registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

The church is near Poplar Avenue and I-240, down the street from the Hilton Hotel.

We are not currently able to move back to the Arlington location because our request for meeting space was rejected.

The board welcomes suggestions for other possible meeting locations.



HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 22, 2026

DARC is sponsoring a 50-passenger bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 22, 2026. The fare is \$120 when paid by cash or check; the online Square price is \$125. 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. Breakfast biscuits, water, sodas, chips, and fruit are included. There are no refunds, but a seat may be transferred to someone else. As of the August 4 board meeting, 35 riders had registered.

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 send your check to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, 6675 Ashbridge Cove, Memphis, TN 38120. Include your name, callsign, cell phone number, email address, and biscuit preference.

Reservations are first-come, first-paid.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church, 9450 Poplar Avenue at Johnson Road, Germantown, by 6:30 a.m. It will leave Huntsville immediately after the 4:00 p.m. door-prize drawing and return at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Park in the back on the northeast side of Germantown Baptist Church so vehicles are covered by security cameras.

The Huntsville Hamfest website is www.hamfest.org

Delta Club Training

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

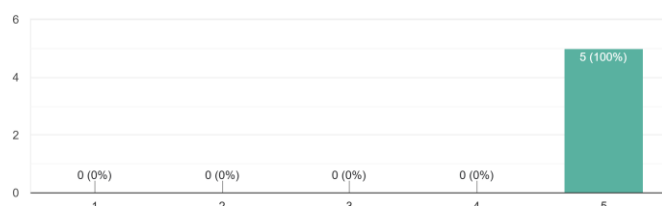
A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights using a new format. Students view Ham Radio Prep videos during the week, followed by question-and-answer (Elmer) sessions. The fee was \$30. The fifth class, August 10 from 6:15–9:30 p.m., will review the question pool and provide an opportunity to take the FCC Technician exam. The sixth class, August 17 from 6:15–9:30 p.m., will feature equipment demonstrations covering repeater basics, APRS, satellites, D-STAR, Fusion, DMR, and EchoLink. The location is First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd., West Entrance. To register for future classes, email wa4ovo@gmail.com with Tech, General, or Extra Class in the subject line and include your name, callsign, email address, and cellphone number.

July Membership Meeting Signal Report

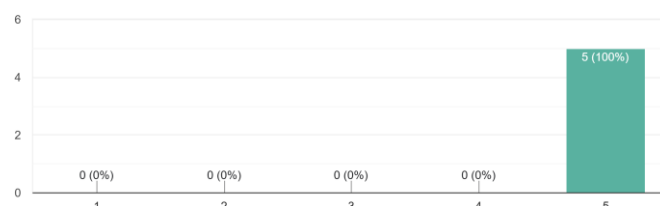
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 34 people on the sign in sheet and **5** surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on 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.

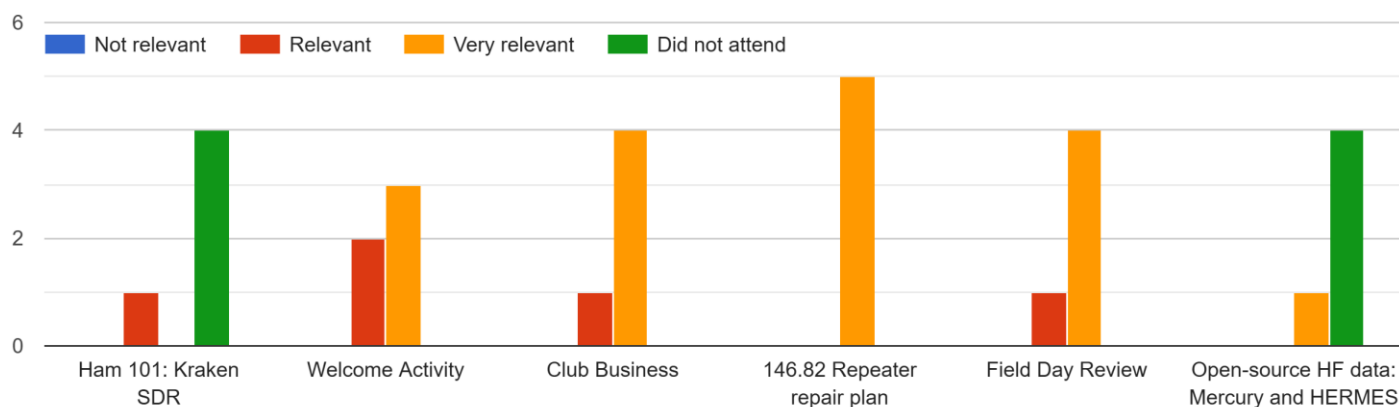
How satisfied were you with the event?
5 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

0 response

Any additional comments regarding the sessions or overall agenda?

2 responses

Thank you club officers. Great meeting!

Our Club Administration is doing a wonderful job.

President's Corner

Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Summer is still with us, but it is coming to an end. One way to appreciate summer being with us still is in the air conditioned Von Braun center attending the Huntsville Hamfest! The Delta Club sponsored bus leaves on the early morning of August 22nd to make the day trip to attend the Ham Fest. It is looking like a good group of people are leaving the driving to the bus driver this year. The bus trip is a treat. The bus pulls up to the back of the convention and we get to walk in with an easy stroll. We also get to bring all of those great purchases back to the bus instead of having to carry them with you all day! Thanks to Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, for leading the efforts to keep this event organized over the years.

We have a full calendar of events coming up as a club. We have the bus trip in August. We have an event in September that is facing the public that introduces HAM radio. October we provide support to the Blues and BBQ bike event that the Memphis Hightailers put on. November is our club elections and door prize event. December we close out with a club holiday dinner. It is a good time to look forward to the upcoming events.

The club is entering the season when we get the opportunity to talk about leadership in the club. We are entering the season when the leadership is elected. If you are interested in being a part of the leadership team please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the current or past board members and ask them how you can get involved. The process starts off in August with a nominating committee. Nominations open at the October Membership meeting and close before the elections at the November membership meeting.

A quick final thought, I would ask for you our members to take a few moments and reflect on busy daily activities and based on that take a moment to thank a board member. They are volunteering time to make our club work and work well. Our club would not be able to do the things we do—like maintain repeaters, schedule really cool bus trips to ham fests, have cool programs, purchase a really cool SDR to learn with, and many other things, if the people that are the club's board of directors did not give their time to the club to make it better. So that, is why I would ask you to share with them some thanks and let them know that they are appreciated. With that said I will take a minute and say thank you to you, our members, because without you, we would not have a club to do things for.

I would like to ask that you please renew your membership for 2026. 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 (check out this link to pay via square <https://delta-amateur-radio-club.square.site/>), 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

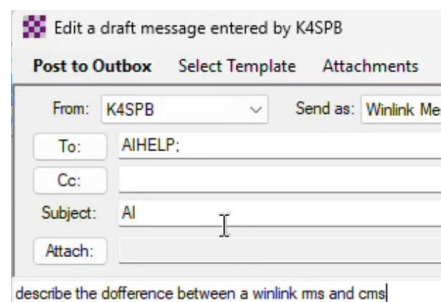
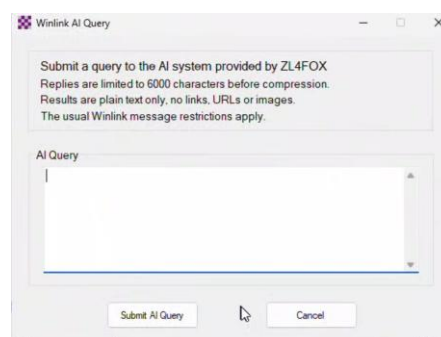
Winlink Express: Now with AI!

Bart, ZL4FOX, has developed an AI agent for Winlink Express and other clients that lets users send questions to an off-site AI service. It can be useful for answering obscure questions while off grid.

In Winlink Express, open Catalog Request from the icon bar, then select AI Query. Enter a question and the program will post a message to the outbox. The query is addressed to the tactical address AIHELP with the subject AI.

With other Winlink clients such as Pat or RadioMail, write the question, address it to AIHELP with the subject AI, and check the inbox again after a few minutes. The screenshots below show where to click and how to format a request.

Adam White, K4SPB — DARC Director of Programs



Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

We often look at an amateur radio club and see only the surface—dues, a monthly meeting and presentation, a website, Facebook posts, and a repeater used for a check-in net. There is much more that we do not always see or appreciate: Field Day planning, VE testing, training classes, mentorship, meeting other hams with similar interests, leadership, repeater repair and upgrades, scheduling net operators, estate sales, hamfest trips, and more.

Want to see more? Consider volunteering for a club position or to lead an event. Even when a leadership position is filled, consider helping that leader with their duties. Participation is what makes a club strong. I would not have been able to do what we have done with the repeaters without the help of others.

Another thing on my mind is for you to get on the radio and talk. Do not wait for the net. I have noticed a difference between those who have difficulty checking into a net—or even serving as net control—and those who rarely have an issue. The difference is operating outside the net. An operator who is active outside the net learns more about the limitations, issues, and coverage of their radio and the repeaters. This also applies to HF. Get on the radio and talk.

Lastly, we will be working on the Brunswick site project in the coming days. More to come on this.

Dan Fleek, AA4DF

YouTube Addict

- [Xiegu G7250](#)
- [How To Please The Ladies As A Ham Radio Operator](#)
- [I Took an 800-Watt Ham Radio Station to a Pub!](#)
- [Project Nomad - This Free Offline Server Just Got a Massive Upgrade](#)

Packet Update Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

A Website by VK3FS is on the internet. This site shows new free software that you can download. One program is RSP spectrum analyzer. SDRUNO is a program to allow use of SDR receivers on your computer screen. N0GSG has DMR contact manager software. WSJT-X FT8 software is also shown with a link to download. The VK3FS website also has kits for Arduino applications, coaxial relay switching, and others. They sell just the circuit boards for some projects so you can use your own parts to build circuit board. The site also has links for space weather, daily solar data, and more. The web address is

<https://3fs.net.au/amateur-radio-software/>

James Butler

KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

QRP radios normally need a good match to the antenna to work properly. One of the best QRP tuners has a matching network and built in SWR indicator. All of these have a switch to flip to the tune mode. This mode allows you to adjust the tuner safely without worrying about blowing the finals. A simple LED lights up and you adjust the tuner for minimum brightness. You can then flip the switch back to the operate position. This circuit has been in use for QRP for a while and works well. You can buy the tuner on Ebay that is built and tested for less than \$50. I have seen the kit version for under \$20 if you want to build it yourself. On Ebay you can search for "QRP TUNER" to find what you need.

James Butler



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

July 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$24,651.21	Minimum Daily Balance	\$24,030
Deposits & Credits	\$3,961.46 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$25,394
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$1,634.34 -		
Ending Balance	\$26,978.33		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

07/02	Square Inc	Sq260702 Delta Amateur	96.40
07/06	Deposit - Thank You		50.00
07/13	Square Inc	Sq260713 Delta Amateur	57.42
07/14	Square Inc	Sq260714 Delta Amateur	57.42
07/15	Deposit - Thank You		655.00
07/20	Square Inc	Sq260720 Delta Amateur	966.70
07/20	Deposit - Thank You		40.00
07/21	Amateur Radio Di Grant 2092 Lifegreen Chec		1,285.00
07/24	Square Inc	Sq260724 Delta Amateur	632.95
07/31	Square Inc	Sq260731 Delta Amateur	120.57
Total Deposits & Credits			\$3,961.46

CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
07/31	1689	97.87	07/17	1694	194.98
07/15	1692 *	243.25	07/16	1695	30.64
07/15	1693	1,067.60			
			Total Checks		\$1,634.34

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

Applications Received - July 2026		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(1) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$50.00
(0) Donations Received - Repeater		\$1,500.00
	Total Dues Received	\$1,550.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Mem - Family (\$20.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$70.00
Huntsville - Bus Fares		\$815.00
Grant Received - Kraken SDR		\$1,285.00
Training Fees Received		\$150.00
Square Surcharge Received (includes donation of \$150)		\$155.00
Square Fees		(\$63.54)
	Total Other Deposits	\$2,411.46
	Total Deposits	\$3,961.46
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Ch#1689 - Joe Plunk - Zoom renewal		\$97.87
Ch#1692 - Joe Lowenthal - Training Mat/Flea Mkt Tables		\$243.25
Ch#1693 - Adam White - Kraken SDR		\$1,067.60
Ch#1694 - Nashoba ARC - Field Day Food		\$194.98
Ch#1695 - Josh Cunningham - Meeting refreshments		\$30.64
	Total Payments	\$1,634.34

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	INTEREST RATE	YTD INTEREST	INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID
\$5,700.83	3.680 %	\$103.08	\$42.11
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	INTEREST RATE	YTD INTEREST	INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID
\$12,238.56	2.960 %	\$267.96	\$11.91
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$89.98	\$448.45	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	7/22/2026	5/22/2027	
▲ Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

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

Absent: Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Guests: None.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on August 4, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:36pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joe said that he really enjoyed Field Day this year.

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

Paul Broom presented the membership applications that were received since the July BOD meeting. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the August Treasurer's Report, covering transactions for the month of July.

Paul said that the club's CD ending in *8503 received an interest payment of \$89.98 during the month of July. The CD ending in *8481 will mature in September. Paul is keeping an eye on business CD rates, which are currently at 3.50% for 6 months and 3.66% for 17 months.

Joe Plunk said that DARC may want to deposit the proceeds of the CD into the checking account, rather than rolling it over. That amount may be needed for cash reserves if the club does not receive an ARRL Foundation grant for the 146.82 tower climb project.

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

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

Joe Plunk and Adam White discussed the program topics for Ham 101 and the August Membership Meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that all of the materials needed for the 146.82 tower climb have to be on site before the tower climbers are scheduled. Dan is looking for people to travel to Kansas City and pick up the antennas. Anyone interested should contact Dan.

Dan reported that the tower climbers do not have much of a backlog. They currently need about a week's notice to arrange for a four-man, two-day tower climb.

The climbers will have the DIN connectors for the coax. Joe Plunk said that there will be discussions in the future about the purchase of the coax itself.

Joe Lowenthal asked about the total length of the antennas that DARC is purchasing. Adam White said that the packaging is around 12 feet at the longest point.

There was a discussion about the methods that DARC could use to pay the antenna vendor.

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

Joe Plunk said that Expo Hamfest Committee Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, is working to lock-in the date for next year's event. The second weekend in April is not available, so the date will have to be moved to the first or third weekend of the month.

Dan Fleek said that the insurance claim paperwork for the equipment at the University of Memphis repeater site looks to be in order. The claim can now be filed.

Joe Plunk and Dan Fleek discussed the AllStarLink equipment at the 146.625 repeater site. Dan said he will try to connect to the device and look at its status with the network. It may not be connecting correctly at this time. Dan said it may be necessary to reset the device, or to swap the interface.

Joe Plunk and Dan Fleek also discussed setting up a router and a VPN at the 443.700 DMR repeater site. Dan said that ARDC (Amateur Radio Digital Communications) is a great resource, and he plans to utilize their services for the project.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to submit their Sparks articles to Johnathan as soon as possible. Joe said that he will be taking his daughter on a college visit next week, and will miss the August Membership Meeting. Tyler Henley will preside over the meeting in Joe's absence.

Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel said that he is working to get the BOD members set up on HamClubOnline (HCO), an amateur radio club management software package. Shortly thereafter, he plans to add the rest of membership. Johnathan said that he can use HCO to manage the club email list, and to publish the Sparks newsletter.

Joe Plunk discussed other features of HCO, including the ability to send membership reminders to members, and to integrate with our online payment system.

Joe Plunk said that the BOD needed to appoint a Nominating Committee, in preparation for the club elections in November. The committee will take nominations for the elected positions and certify the slate of candidates. There was a discussion about club members who might be asked to serve on the committee.

Joe Plunk said that he would contact the club members that were recommended by the BOD, and ask them if they would be willing to serve on the committee. The committee will be presented to the membership at the August meeting.

Joe Plunk said that he would reach out to the current BOD members, and ask if they would be willing to serve in their current positions next year.

Joe Plunk shared some statistics and thoughts about Field Day. Delta and Nashoba Club operated as a 6A station with 6 active transmitters and 17 operators over the 24-hour period. The raw score was 4801. There were a total of 881 contacts and the GOTA station had 63 contacts with 5 young people operating.

Joe said there are not many clubs who operate as 6As. There have only been 35-40 6As in the last 10-15 years.

Joe said he was blown away by the event. He thanked everyone who was involved in the planning and execution of Field Day.

Joe Lowenthal said that 33 riders have paid for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. 5 more people have said they are interested in going. Joe said that the trip would break even if there are 35 riders. The trip could make money for the club if more than 35 people register.

Joe Lowenthal also said that DARC made \$70 on equipment sales last month. He is currently sorting through items from a new estate donation.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to reach out to someone, and to invite them to join the club.

Adam White said there have been no updates on DARC's application for an ARRL Foundation Grant. Adam also talked about the group purchase of Ed Fong antennas.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that the Technician Class License Class has been meeting for three weeks. The class will test next Monday Night. There are 8 students, and 2 of them are also studying for the General Class exam. Joe is using a new format for this class, and he will evaluate its success when the class is completed.

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 unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:19pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Secretary

Minutes of Last Month's Club Meeting

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

The July 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 14th 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 34 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, Director of Meetings and Special Events Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ.

Absent: Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

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

Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and to say what they enjoyed most about Field Day.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, moved to accept the Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's Report, as published in Sparks. There was a second by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed without opposition.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD Members had announcements.

Director of Programs Adam White said that Delta Club is doing a group order of Ed Fong antennas. The deadline to order is this Friday, July 17th. You may contact Adam by email at programs@deltacub.org, or send him a PM on the DARC discord.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a new Technician Class License Class started last night. 5 students attended and one more student is expected to participate in the next session. One of the students is a very enthusiastic 11 year-old, who may try to pass the Technician and General Class exams.

The class is using a new format, which will require fewer instructors. The students will also be able to keep their study materials after the class is over.

Joe Lowenthal also said that 31 or 32 people have signed up for the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 22nd. 35 riders are needed for the trip to break even financially. The current individual fare is \$120.

Joe Plunk led a discussion about the proposed tower climb project at the 146.82 repeater site in Brunswick.

Joe said that the 146.82 repeater system is not healthy, and has not been performing well for some time. Everything possible has been done at the bottom of the tower to remedy the problems. Testing has revealed that the problems are occurring at the top of the tower.

A tower climb is necessary to diagnose the problems and to make repairs. The BOD has determined that the best course of action will be to replace all 3 antennas, jumpers and connectors while the team is up on the tower. There is also a plan to have the 146.82 transmit and receive functions handled by different antennas on different levels of the tower.

The climbers, who will work on the tower for two days, will also examine the coax feedline and make sure that it was not damaged by RF problems with the TV transmission line.

Ham Hilliard has graciously donated coax for the project.

The connectors on top of the tower will be changed from the N type to a new industry standard, the DIN connector. The DIN connector offers much better protection against water intrusion, even if the o-ring fails.

Joe Plunk said that Treasurer Paul Broom worked very hard to prepare financial projections regarding the project. Even if the club received no income in the coming year, the club's bank accounts could pay for the tower climb project, the Expo Hamfest, the Huntsville bus trip and other events that the club plans for 2027.

Of course, the club will receive dues payments and financial gifts during the coming year. A generous donor has already made a gift of \$1,000 to fund the tower climb project.

Adam White also submitted an application to the ARRL Foundation for a grant of up to \$5,000 to fund the project. This money would replenish the club's financial reserves after the tower climb project is completed. If the club does not receive a grant, a CD for \$5,000 that matures in September could be cashed in to replenish DARC's cash reserves.

Joe Plunk said that the projected cost of the tower climb project is \$12,000-\$13,000. The BOD recommends that the membership approve an unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$14,000, in case there are additional, unforeseen expenses during the climb.

Ham Hilliard moved that the club membership approve an unbudgeted expense of up to \$14,000 to fund the tower climb project. There was a second by Richard Martin, K4DXF. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk said that DARC will immediately start to buy the antennas and connectors for the tower climb. Hopefully, the club will hear about the ARRL Foundation grant before the actual climb takes place.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to please renew their membership. He asked everyone to encourage non-members who enjoy using the club's repeaters to consider joining DARC.

Delta Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Joe reminded everyone that donations made to the club may be tax deductible. The club will be happy to provide IRS letters to those who donate.

Joe Lowenthal also mentioned that a donation to DARC may be very advantageous for anyone who is required to make a minimum distribution from their IRA account(s). Joe Plunk recommended that everyone in this situation ask their financial advisor about this.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal announced that he has appointed Don Strahl as DARC's new Net Manager.

Ham Hilliard said he has 300 feet of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hardline and a box of N connectors that he would like to give away. Those interested should contact Ham.

Joe Plunk showed and discussed two detailed maps that he prepared. The maps showed the coverage area of the 146.82 repeater and the ham radio operators that live in that area. The repeater covers a 60-mile radius that reaches 4,200 operators.

Joe will be happy to email copies of the maps to anyone who is interested.

After a short break, Joe Plunk led a discussion about Field Day.

Joe said he looked at results of previous Field Day events that were submitted to the ARRL. 2026 is the first time that the club has operated a 6A station. 17 operators were able to make 882 contacts during the event.

Joe thanked Adam White and Billy Freeman, WL4B, for hosting seminars during Field Day at the Germantown Public Library.

The discussion about Field Day covered numerous topics, including: the number of stations, the antennas that were used, the need to coordinate the use of bands, logging, the food, the use of the tower truck this year and in the future, the young people who made contacts at the GOTA station, the use of notch filters in the future, the antenna rotator, and how we could install the yagi if the tower truck is not available next year.

Joe Plunk asked 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. Joe Lowenthal made the motion, which was seconded by Bill Hancock, WA4MJM. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:16pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at First Evangelical Church, beginning at 7:00pm.

Delta Ham License Training, 2026

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Training

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; i.e., 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 Sixth Edition with question pool that becomes effective July 1, 2026 for four years. This is a new manual.

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

None

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.

CURRENT CLASSES

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

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights. A new format is being used using Ham Radio Prep videos that each student views during the week and a question and answer (Elmer) session is held on the following three Monday nights. The class fee was \$30. The students paid in person or online via the Delta Club Square link at <https://delta-amateur-radio-club.square.site/>

The first class covered a local introduction and the first three HRP lessons. The first four classes were on July 13, 20, 27, August 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm. The instructor/Elmers were Jim W4JBG and Joe WA4OVO.



First class for Tech Class 3-26

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. Two students plan to take Tech and the General exam. The Laurel VE Team will provide for the FCC exams.

The sixth class (August 17 from 6:15-9:30 pm) will be equipment demonstrations on repeater basics by Joe WA4OVO, APRS by Rick KJ4NWQ, satellites by Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF and digital basics (DStar, Fusion, DMR, and Echolink) by John KN4BVH. The location is First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd, West Entrance, Room A109

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 KJ5PJG 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 Rick KJ4NWQ presenting APRS

Patrick WD9EWK on SO-50

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.

General Class 4-25 – November 3 – December 8, 2025

An in-person General license class was held on five Monday nights November 3, 17, 24, December 1 and 8 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class was an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The classes were held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway.

Eight students started the class. The following six students upgraded to General: John KQ4UIC, Dexter KJ5HMT, Michael KJ5MKR, Patrick KJ5MKS, Rajesh KR4CPZ and Danny KR4CVH.

John KN4BVH on Safety Carolyn KX4QF on Antennas

Paul KY4MX on Rules & Regs Randall KY4MY on Equipment

The instructors were Steve KK4VPT, Perry N4GJ, Josh KQ4IOS, Bobby KD4BS, Carolyn KX4QF, John KN4BVH, Paul KY4MX, Randall KY4MY and Joe WA4OVO.

The Delta Club ARRL VE Team will provide an opportunity for FCC testing on December 8th.



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 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)
<https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>
 - B. Under License Search in the center of the 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 membership includes digital access to QST, On the Air, QEX, and National Contest Journal, plus access to the ARRL Technical Information Service and other member resources. Visit www.arrl.org/join/WE1 or call 1-888-277-5289 in the United States (Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. ET); international members may call 860-594-0338.

Coming soon: ARRL is creating a new online membership form that will let new and renewing members select a participating affiliated club to receive commission credit. The club commission will be \$20 for new members and \$10 for renewals.

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

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Immediate Past President
VACANT

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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

July-September 2026

Date	Time	Event / Location
August 11	7:00-9:00 p.m.	DARC Membership Meeting and August program - First Evangelical Church
August 22	6:30 a.m.	Huntsville Hamfest bus trip
September 1	6:30 p.m.	DARC Board of Directors meeting - Zoom
September 22		Smaller club CD matures
July 27	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Technician Class 3-26
August 3	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Technician Class 3-26
August 4	6:30 p.m.	DARC Board of Directors Meeting - Zoom
August 10	6:15-9:30 p.m.	Technician review and FCC exam opportunity
August 17	6:15-9:30 p.m.	Technician equipment demonstrations
August 22	6:30 a.m.	Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip - depart Germantown Baptist Church
September 7	-	No training meeting - Labor Day

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

For additional events, visit 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 (Center for United States Earthquake Consortium)	7.180		As needed

3980 kHz – Tennessee Phone Net

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

DELTA CLUB ADVERTISEMENTS



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 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

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