

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 114 * July 2025



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, July 8, 2025.

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

- **FCC Testing begins at 5:30 pm in Room B201**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in Room B202**
 - Crimping coax terminals
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Building an end fed antenna

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!

HAM 101

Crimping coax terminals

Delta Club Training

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on June 30, July 7, 21, 28, August 4 and 11. Nine students attended the first class. Several students missed the first class. The classes are being held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station training room, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis.

The next **General** license class will start in November 2025

The next **Extra** license class will start January 2026.

Huntsville Hamfest Bus Trip – August 16, 2025

Delta Club is planning a bus trip again this year to Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church by 6:30am, get to Von Braun Center about 9:45; leave after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to GBC about 8pm. The fare is \$100 until July 16th; then it is \$120. The fare includes transportation, \$15 Hamfest entry ticket, two Danver's breakfast biscuits of ham, sausage or plain, soda, water, cookies, crackers and fruit on the way down, during the day and on the return to Germantown. The bus will back up to the loading dock so you can bring your purchases to the bus rather than having to carry them around all day as well as getting something to drink or something to munch on.

June Membership Meeting Signal Report

We will provide the June and July Signal report in our August Sparks release.

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Field Day 2025 is in the books! I had a great time at our event. We had 78 people sign in on our sign in sheet. The weather threw us some curve balls—well more like strong winds and horizontal rain—but we overcame the weather (and the bands) and still had a great, fun, event!

One of my personal favorite stations is the Get on the Air Station better known as GOTA. This station is where non Hams, or Hams that have not been on HF, or Hams that have been off the air have an opportunity to sit down and operate an HF station and make contacts with other operators across the country and the world. For me it was fun this year to see an operator that had not operated HF before sit down at the GOTA station and operate it for several hours making multiple pages of contacts!

Another fun field day memory for me this year was that the event ran as a 4A site. A 4A site means that the site had 4 active transmitters running at the same time. The memory that I enjoyed making was watching the site run those 4 stations from 11 PM to 5 AM – a time that we have traditionally struggled to have stations running during this time.

Just like Field Day connected people over the air waves, in August, we have our annual bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 16 th . Riding the bus is a great way to connect, socialize, and make new friends. The bus trip is a great value at \$100! Please let us know if you would like to ride the bus with us this year. Leave the driving to us and please ask for more details.

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

Vice President's Corner Submitted by Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

Halfway through the year. Once again, we find the time continually getting faster and faster after having a very successful summer Field Day once again the hobby fascinates me as I was able to easily find a group in St. Louis to get some contacts in with while I was away with the Army. That's why I find this hobby the best. I'm glad to hear many reports from our end that even though the weather might've kept us down for a little bit the event was still a success. As we prepared to enter the back half of 2025, let's keep our eyes and ears open for ways to

keep interest in the hobby alive. Numerous contests and other functions can keep us busy, but let's remember to continually invite people to see what we're all about.

On another note, the Huntsville Hamfest is right around the corner. If you haven't attended before, I would highly suggest it. It is a great way to see what all is going on in our community. See you soon.

Program's Corner
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

The last chance to order and pay for Ed Fong antennas is this Tuesday at the membership meeting. Only a couple people haven't submitted payment but there's still time to submit an order and pay if you're interested. <https://forms.gle/F6Y1dgbQCow3sKVp9>
HAM 101 will be coax connections. We will be crimping PL259s on a few different types of coax so you can understand how it is done in your home QTH. Also, the Powerpole crimpers demonstrated at the last meeting will be available for use to anyone who would like them. Lastly, for the presentations we will debrief field day and discuss a new transformer winding for an end fed half wave antenna.

Repeater Trustee's Corner
Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

Field day went well this year. We combined our efforts with Nashoba Club and had a great time. 78 people either stopped by to say hi, operate a station, or help with equipment setup/teardown and food. We made over 300 contacts this year. It is easy to look at Field Day as a contest or say, "that's not how a real emergency would work". Field day is what you put into it. Did you get interested in ham radio for emergency communications, but did not see Field Day as an important event? Please think about adding Field Day to your must attend list. I learned a lot from the event. Things I learned or asked myself:

- Do I have a go-bag ready for emergency events?
- Have some food alternatives with you in case there is a shortage
- Always have some rain gear, even if it is the disposable ponchos from Walmart.
- Can your group sustain 24 hours of operations?
- Did your organization go it alone instead of teaming up with other groups for more resources?
- Do you have the ability to showcase your group's events and progress on a situation to the general public?

- Do you have a working relationship with any government organizations?
- Do your local politicians know what your group does or can do?
- Does your club work well with other clubs?
- Did you spend time getting to know other hams in the area?
- Did you coordinate site efforts with cell phones or did you use amateur radio?

Another thing hams should consider is attending hamfests. The club is again coordinating a bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. Price of the trip includes entry, breakfast, drinks, and snacks. The bus parks right behind the facility. No need to reserve a hotel or worry about being too tired to drive. I know you can watch YouTube for info and buy things from eBay and Amazon, but there is much to learn from others in person. It is a good opportunity to get to know your local hams on the bus. See and touch items before you buy. Ask questions. Enjoy the hobby.

See you at the meeting!

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST BUS TRIP - AUGUST 16, 2025

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Delta Club is planning a bus trip again this year to Huntsville Hamfest on August 16th. The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church by 6:30am, get to Von Braun Center about 9:45; leave after the 4pm door prize drawing and return to GBC about 8pm. The fare is \$100 until July 16th; then it is \$120. The fare includes transportation, \$15 Hamfest entry ticket, two Danver's breakfast biscuits of ham, sausage or plain, soda, water, cookies, crackers and fruit on the way down, during the day and on the return to Germantown. The bus will back up to the loading dock so you can bring your purchases to the bus rather than having to carry them around all day as well as getting something to drink or something to munch on.

We will take your reservation money (cash or check) at the July Delta Club meeting. Make checks payable to Delta Amateur Radio Club.

You can send a check to:

Delta Amateur Radio Club

c/o Joe Lowenthal

6675 Ashbridge Cove

Memphis TN 38120

Be sure to include callsign, email address and whether you want ham, sausage or plain biscuits.

Packet Update
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

One new website for Ham radio users is PSK reporter. This site shows a world map that you use to select stations on the air in any area. You can pick the mode you want to see and then see all stations heard by the selected station. This site collects information for propagation reports. The site has lots of options to look at collected information. The website for the information page for PSK reporter is <https://pskreporter.info/>

To go to reception reports bring up map the web address at <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>

No program is required to load. You can put a shortcut to the website on your main screen to have it available for use.

James Butler
KB4LJV

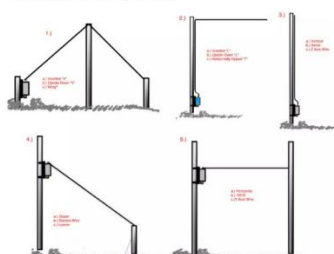
Amateur Hardware Update
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many amateurs look for a simple effective antenna for portable HF use. One antenna you can use is the end fed antenna. End fed antennas typically use a Balun to match the radio to the antenna. A 9 to 1 or a 49 to 1 Balun is used. End fed antennas can be a half wave for the length of the radiator. You can carry predetermined lengths of wire ready to use on your band of choice. Some end fed antennas are designed with a reel as part of the assembly to wind your wire on. End fed systems can come with only a box with the connectors and Balun. On these you supply your own wire. These are usually pulled up to a height by insulated line. They can be set up in different configurations based on available spots to hang it where you are running your station. These systems can be bought for under \$50 You can do a search on Ebay for “end fed antenna”.

James Butler
KB4LJV



EFHW Antenna Configurations



Field Day Pictures
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO











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 31, 2025 through June 30, 2025

SUMMARY					
Beginning Balance	\$16,415.84		Minimum Daily Balance		\$16,349
Deposits & Credits	\$2,537.50 +		Average Monthly Statement Balance		\$17,272
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -				
Fees	\$0.00 -				
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +				
Checks	\$178.46 -				
Ending Balance	\$18,774.88				


DEPOSITS & CREDITS		
06/11	Deposit - Thank You	300.00
06/12	Deposit - Thank You	899.50
06/23	Deposit - Thank You	520.00
06/30	Deposit - Thank You	598.00
06/30	Deposit - Thank You	200.00
06/30	Deposit - Thank You	20.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$2,537.50

CHECKS					
Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
06/10	1650	66.46	06/30	1651	112.00
				Total Checks	\$178.46
* Break In Check Number Sequence.					

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY					
Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
06/10	16,349.38	06/12	17,548.88	06/30	18,774.88
06/11	16,649.38	06/23	18,068.88		

Applications Received - June 2025		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(1) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$20.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(6) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$120.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(2) Donations Received		\$1,000.00
	Total Dues Received	\$1,140.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
Ed Fong Antenna order Receipts		\$774.50
Misc Receipts		\$123.00
2025 Huntsville Hamfest - Bus Fares Received		\$500.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$1,397.50
	Total Deposits	\$2,537.50
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1650 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement of club meeting refreshments		\$66.46
Check #1651 - Joe Lowenthal - Huntsville Hamfest flea market tables		\$112.00
Check #1652 - Dan Fleek - Purchase of sound card for the 146.625 repeater (\$123.50 outstanding check)		\$0.00
	Total Payments	\$178.46

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,413.68	4.160 %	\$42.94	\$99.62
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$42.94	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	1/22/2025	8/22/2025	
 Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,646.29	4.160 %	\$124.14	\$171.13
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$124.14	\$274.10	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	2/23/2025	10/22/2025	
▲ Hide More Details			

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESSMay 1, 2025 through May 30, 2025

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$16,263.12	Minimum Daily Balance	\$16,042
Deposits & Credits	\$400.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$16,333
Withdrawals	\$20.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$227.28 -		
Ending Balance	\$16,415.84		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

05/15	Deposit - Thank You	400.00
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WITHDRAWALS

05/02	Returned Deposit Item # of Itm(S) 0001	20.00
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CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
05/13	1646	69.04	05/27	1649 *	27.14
05/13	1647	131.10			

Total Checks	\$227.28
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* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY


Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
05/02	16,243.12	05/15	16,442.98	05/27	16,415.84
05/13	16,042.98				

Applications Received - May 2025		
(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
(6) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$0.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	Total Dues Received	\$0.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
2025 Huntsville Hamfest - Bus Fares Received		\$400.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$400.00
	Total Deposits	\$0.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
Returned check		\$20.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$20.00
Checks		
Check #1646 - Dan Fleek - Reimbursement for purchase of Raspberry PI for 146.82 repeater		\$69.04
Check #1647 - Dan Fleek - Purchase of Coax Jumper from DX Engineering Inv 427049		\$131.00
Check #1649 - Scott Adams - Reimbursement of club meeting refreshments		\$27.14
	Total Payments	\$227.28

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,413.68	4.160 %	\$42.94	\$94.59
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u>			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$42.94	\$263.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	1/22/2025	8/22/2025	
 Hide More Details			

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8503

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$11,646.29	4.160 %	\$124.14	\$160.37
<u>SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER</u> *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$124.14	\$274.10	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	2/23/2025	10/22/2025	
 Hide More Details			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - July 1, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - July 1, 2025

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Director of Training

Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Guests: Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, Fred Miller, KS2X.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on July 1, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

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

President Joe Plunk thanked everyone that was involved in Field Day.

Joe Plunk asked if there were any objections to the Secretary's Minutes of the June Membership Meeting, which were circulated by email. There were no objections. The minutes will be submitted to the membership at the July meeting.

Treasurer Paul Broom, KY4MX, presented the membership applications that had been received since the May BOD Meeting. Perry Hayes moved to accept all of the applications, with a second by Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that the memorial service for Jim Martin was held in Virginia today. Joe asked everyone to take a moment and lift up Jim's family.

Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, made a motion to untable the June Treasurer's Report (for transactions during the month of May), with a second by Perry Hayes. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the June Treasurer's Report. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the July Treasurer's Report (for transactions during the month of June). Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed without objection.

There was a discussion about bills that were expected to be presented during the month of July. Joe Plunk thanked Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, for taking charge of the refreshments at Field Day this year.

Joe Plunk discussed the presentation topics for the July Membership Meeting, which he received from Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB. The last opportunity for ordering Ed Fong antennas will be at the July meeting.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said he needed to replace a coax connector on the 224.420 repeater. The APRS antenna at the Methodist North repeater site was destroyed by lightning, so he and Joe Lowenthal are looking for an economical replacement. Dan will make arrangements with Jelly Thompson, N4HLT, to visit the Germantown repeater site and replace the audio board on the 146.625 repeater. Dan reminded everyone that the monthly National Weather Service Net will be held tonight (the first day of the month) on Brandmeister DMR talkgroup 314431.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to submit their articles for Sparks to Director of Publications Jonathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, as soon as possible. Joe asked anyone with Field Day photos to send those to Johnathan and himself.

Nashoba Amateur Radio Club President Fred Miller, KS2X, joined the BOD for an after-action debrief of this year's Field Day activities. There was a general discussion about what went well, what didn't go well, and what could be changed or added next year.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that 9 riders have paid for the Huntsville Bus Trip, and 1 check is in the mail. Another 20 riders are needed for the trip to be economically worthwhile.

There was a discussion about publicizing the bus trip.

President Joe Plunk said that he appreciates the BOD's commitment to the club, and the giving of their time. Joe said Field Day was a blast and he is looking forward to the Huntsville Hamfest, Bikes Blues and BBQ, Swamp Stompers and other events coming up on the schedule.

Joe asked if any other BOD members had comments or reports.

Vice President Tyler Henley said he is sorry that he missed Field Day this year, and is looking forward to next year.

Treasurer Paul Broom said that the club had received some donations, and he was looking for an attestation letter and a copy of the club letterhead. Joe Plunk and Joe Lowenthal offered to help Paul with those items.

Paul said he had filed DARC's annual report with the State of Tennessee, and renewed DARC's charitable organization designation with the State.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, thanked Josh Cunningham for his help with refreshments, and said he hoped Josh would take over as Director of Meetings and Special Events.

There was a discussion about Field Day photos. These should be forwarded to Johnathan and Dan for publication in Sparks, on the web site and on Facebook.

Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel said he will send the Sparks newsletter out for review, as soon as he completes it.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that Technician Class license class 3-25 met for the first time last night. Nine students attended but a couple did not show. Some friends of the current students may join the class. It is a good class and the students asked a lot of questions.

Joe said he promoted the Huntsville bus trip to the class, and will charge the students a fare of \$100 after they pass their exams, instead of \$120.

Joe said he met one of Scott's co-workers at Field Day. One person he met at field day attended the Technician class as a student and one missed the class.

Joe Lowenthal said he reserved two tables for DARC at the Huntsville Hamfest, and paid for them.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said he enjoyed Field Day this year. It was his first time to be involved in the organization of the event, and he learned a great deal.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to

adjourn. Joe Lowenthal made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2025 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
June 10, 2025

The June 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. The President served as the chair and the Secretary was present. Club President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 44 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, 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 Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW.

Absent: Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, (on military duty), Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, convened a meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD). Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, called the roll and declared a quorum.

Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, served for 4.5 years as the Director of Publications. Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, has been training with Mike, and has agreed to take over the position. Mike Harrison resigned as Director of Publications, and his resignation was accepted by the President and the BOD.

Joe Plunk thanked Mike Harrison for his many years of faithful service. Those in attendance gave Mike a hearty round of applause.

Joe Plunk asked the BOD to accept his appointment of Johnathan Urschel as Director of Publications. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, made a motion to accept the appointment, which was seconded by Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk welcomed Johnathan Urschel as the new Director of Publications. Those in attendance gave Johnathan a hearty round of applause.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the BOD, which was seconded by Adam White. The motion passed without opposition.

Following the BOD meeting, President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the DARC Membership Meeting.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes, as published in the June issue of Sparks, which was seconded by Don Strahl, KZ4GJ. The motion passed unanimously.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek announced that that a team had visited the Methodist North repeater site to make repairs. Dan said the 224.420 repeater is back on the air.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that a Technician Class License Class is scheduled to begin on June 30th, and will meet on 6 Monday nights (excluding July 14th) from 6:15 to 9:30pm at the Memphis Police Department's Appling Farm Station training room. Joe said 6 students have signed up, and 10 are needed for the class to proceed. Joe thanked everyone who volunteered to be instructors.

Joe Lowenthal reminded everyone about the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday, August 16th. 25 riders are required for the bus trip to be financially viable. There were not enough riders registered last year, but an anonymous benefactor donated \$1,200, which allowed that trip to take place.

This year's fare is \$100, which covers transportation, the entry fee to the Hamfest, 2 Danver's breakfast biscuits (sausage, ham or plain), waters, sodas, cookies, crackers and fruit on the way down and whatever is left over on the way back. Joe will accept payment by cash or check.

The bus will leave Germantown Baptist Church at 6:30am and return around 8:00pm. The bus will back up to the loading dock at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville. Joe said everyone should fill out their tickets for the drawing as soon as the bus arrives at the Hamfest.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to complete a Field Day participation survey and a Signal Report Survey.

Joe Lowenthal said that a memorial service will be held for Jim Martin, KD4FUU, on July 1 st at the Church of the Holy Family in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Josh Cunningham, KQ4IOS, gave a presentation about the plans for Field Day. Josh discussed the stations and equipment that would operate at this year's event. Josh asked everyone to submit a Field Day participation survey, which will help with scheduling and food planning.

Director of Programs Adam White gave a presentation about (Anderson) Powerpole connectors, which have become the standard electrical connectors for amateur radio.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Josh Cunningham made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Adam White. The motion passed without opposition.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at the Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, beginning at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Perry Hayes, N4GJ
Secretary

Delta Ham License Training, 2025

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 2025 from Delta Classes

8 Technician

1 General

3 Extra

Note:

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSED CLASSES

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

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

The next **General** license class will probably start in early November 2025.

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

SCHEDULED CLASSES

None

CURRENT CLASSES

Tech Class 3-25 – June 30 – August 11, 2025

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on June 30, July 7, 21, 28, August 4 and 11. Nine students attended the first class. Several students missed the first class. The classes are being held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms Station training room, 6850 Appling Farms Pkwy, Memphis.



Tech Class 3-25 first class with Bobby KD5BS providing instruction
Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

The instructors are Bobby Stroud KD5BS, Paul Broom KY4MX, John Reiners KN4BVH, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Carolyn Horne KX4QF, Steve Frazier KK4VPT, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

The equipment demonstrators during the sixth class are Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites; Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS; John Reiners KN4BVH on ARES, D-STAR, Fusion and DMR; and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on repeater basics.

PREVIOUS CLASSES

Tech Class 2-25 – February 24 – April 7, 2025

A Technician license class is being held on Zoom on 6 Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 24, March 3, 17, 24, 31 and April 7. There is no class on March 10th. There were 16 students during the first class. Thirteen students finished the class.

Aaron KR4BZN tested online on March 7th. Five students, Owen KR4CVK, Cassie KJ5KTT, Tom KR4CUX, Bill KR4CVJ and Danny KR4CVH passed their Technician license at the in person testing on March 31st. The Laurel VE team of Perry N4GJ, Don KZ4GJ, Jeff AJ4GY, Rick WA4NVM and Joe WA4OVO provided the test session.

Mike Benakovich passed his Technician license online on April 5th. Erica KJ5LDJ earned her Technician license in Houston on April 26th. The other students are out of town so they will take their exam locally or online.

The instructors were Park AI5CY, Paul KY4MX, John KN4BVH, Perry N4GJ, Carolyn KX4QF, Steve KK4VPT and Joe WA4OVO. The demonstration team was Joe WA4OVO on analog radio basics and Echolink, Rick WA4NVM on satellites, Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS, and John on digital radio basics.

Extra Class 1-25 – January 4 – February 15, 2025

An Extra Class license class was held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 4, 12, 18, February 1 and 8. There was not a class on January 25th. The class had the opportunity to take the FCC exam at the Delta Club test session on Tuesday February 11th. Seven students started the class with two from out of state. Five finished: Mark WB0ROG, Josh KQ4IOS, Greg KQ4OVD, Vernon KQ4WCL and Tommy KQ4SQC.

Congratulations to Josh KQ4IOS who passed at the Delta Club January test session and Mark WB0ROG who passed on February 1st at his local Arizona test session. Congratulations to Vernon KQ4WCL who passed at the February 11th Delta Club test session.

The instructors were Paul KY4MX, David KY4FH, Dave AD4Q, Park AI5CY, Carolyn KX4QF, Paul KA4X, Bobby KD5BS and Joe WA4OVO.

Thanks to the Delta Club VE team - Mike KW4RI, Dana WI4B, Tom AC5MR, Ham W4GMM and Roger WR4R.

General Class 4-24 – November 7 – December 12, 2024

An in-person General license class will be held on five Thursday nights November 7, 14, 21, December 5 and 12 from 6:15-9:30pm. The 5th class will be an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The classes will be held at the Memphis Police Department Appling Farms training room, 6850 Appling Farms Parkway. The seven students are Michael KQ4QLJ, John KQ4UIC, Eric KN4QNU, Tony KN4FBK, William KQ4UEO, Randy KQ4HJH, and Rich KN4OEI.

Congratulations to William KQ4UEO who upgraded on December 3rd.

Congratulations to Michael KQ4QLJ and Tony KN4FBK for upgrading to General on December 12th.

Thanks to the Delta Club VE Team of Mike KW4RI, Jeff KX4LO, Perry N4GJ, Randall KY4MY, Doug WA4CB, Don KZ4GJ, Dan KN4FBJ and Joe WA4OVO who provided the test session.

The instructors are Paul KY4MX, Park AI5CY, Steve KK4VPT, Billy WL4B, Perry N4GJ, Randall KY4MY, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO. The Delta Club ARRL VE Team will provide an opportunity for FCC testing on December 12th.



Randall KY4MY presenting to General Class 4-24

Photo by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

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

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

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



Steve KK4VPT presenting



Perry N4GJ presenting



Satellite Demo by Rick WA4NVM



FM Digital Opns by John KN4BVH

Photos by Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

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

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

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

Previous Months' and Nice to Know Information

How to Print Your FCC License

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

8. Click Open at bottom and Print your License.

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ
Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

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

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

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

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

YL News

Submitted by Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB

The YL Net is every Saturday at 8:45 pm on the 146.820 W4BS repeater, which has a PL tone of 107.2 Hz. Each YL Net has a designated “general discussion” section, which is a great time for hams of all experience levels to discuss various topics ranging from ham radio to gardening and then some! You do not have to be a YL to check in on the YL Net - everyone is welcome!

We are looking for more YL Net Control Operators (NCOs)! You do not need to have experience calling a Net to be a YL NCO; you just need to be able to get into the repeater and read from a script. It's a great Net to try out as being a NCO, and you would only call the YL Net about once a month. If interested, please email Mary Jean KY4FB at ky4fb.tn@gmail.com or call/text at 901.356.1475. 73!

2025 Board of Directors

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Sparks Newsletter and Delta Club Information

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

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
YL Info Net (Primary)	146.820	- (107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
YL Info Net (Secondary)	443.200	+(107.2)	8:45p	Saturday
Sunday Super Niner Net	927.6125	- (146.2)	8:30p	Sunday
Elmer Net	147.030	+ (107.2)	9:00p	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		7:30p	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



Hamsource
Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field

John Kalotai, N1OLO
Owner

456 Long Hill Avenue
Shelton, CT 06484

203-556-8700

john@hamsource.com
<http://www.hamsource.com>

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

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



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



Joe Miller
Owner

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