

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 123 * April 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, April 14th, 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.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 pm in room A109**
- **HAM 101 begins at 6:00 pm in room E234**
 - Starlink Mini
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Part One – Off center fed dipoles with Bob Brehm
 - Part Two – Mid-South Radio Active Expo Debrief

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!

2026 Radio Active Expo

The show has wrapped and we had a successful first year show! In the following days we will be collecting feedback from other clubs, collating the total show counts etc. We have many data points that will help us learn and make next year's event even better! Thank you to all the club members who came out as well as the members who were integral to the operation of the show.

Feedback

<https://forms.gle/V96Lydv7keZSgHF2A>



Videos

https://youtu.be/h2THj_g-3pY?si=iL8m2IDP70wh3PU1



Delta Club Training

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

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 20. The classes will be via Zoom except for the 5th class which is an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There is no class on March 9th. There were 13 students in the first class. Eleven students are continuing their studies.

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

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

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

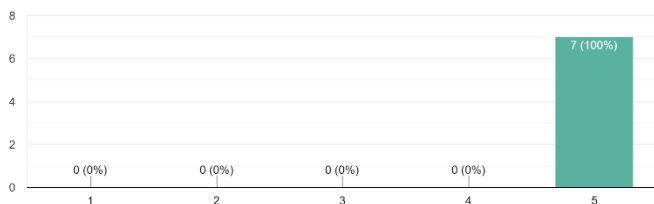
Congratulations to Larry KQ4DFU who passed his Extra exam at the Delta Club FCC test session on January 13th. Congratulations to Johnathan KO4WAQ and Rajesh KR4CPZ (now NA4AH) on upgrading to Extra at the in-person FCC exam on Saturday, February 21st at Germantown Fire Station #4. The Delta Club ARRL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

March Membership Meeting Signal Report

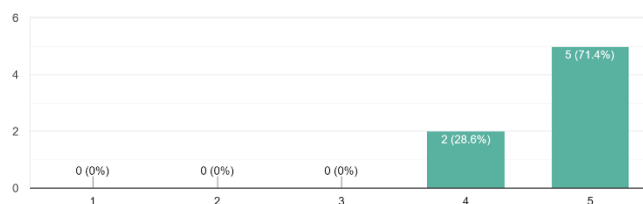
I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 37 people on the sign in sheet and 7 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

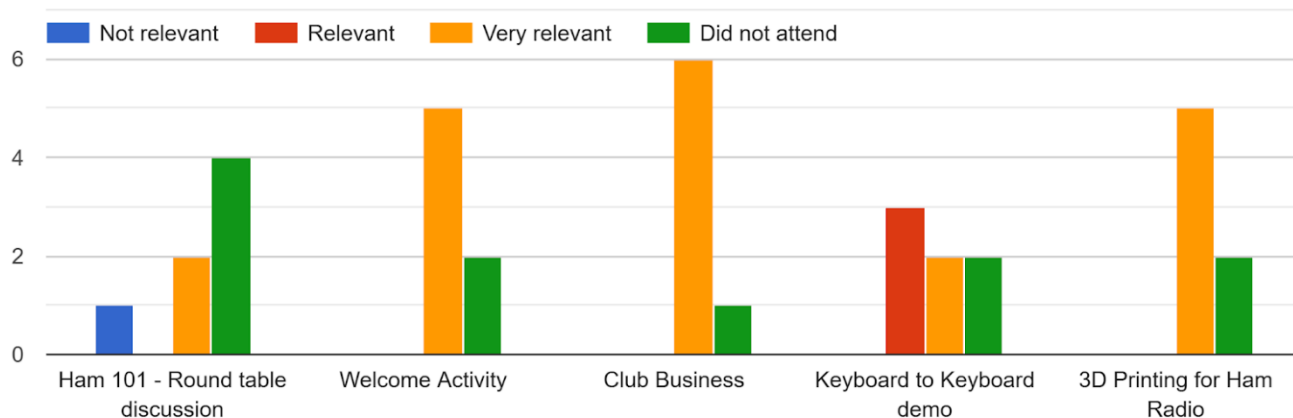
How satisfied were you with the event?
7 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



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

2 responses

Hams Over IP

Home Antenna setup

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Looking back in the rear-view mirror for a moment, it is a fantastic view to see the club's first major event having been completed. The Radio Active Mid-South Expo is in the books. It was amazing to see hundreds of people come through the doors, walk the vendor booths, and participate in the seminars. The Expo was a major accomplishment that would not have been possible without the team of amazing people that stepped up to plan and organize the event.

Turning to looking forward, some of our next events are:

- Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test on 9 May 2026, a notable event that many have enjoyed in the past, more details are available here -- <https://www.dodmars.org/mars-comex-information-website/armed-forces-day>
- ARRL Field day June 27th and 28th
- The annual bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest on August 22nd
- Our support of the annual Bluff City Blues Bike Ride in October with the date still TBD
- Our Membership meeting with door prizes and elections November 10th.
- Our annual membership potluck on December 8th.

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, and I would give a huge shoutout to our Treasurer Paul Broom for doing the hard work of getting the details worked out so that we are able to do so. Please bring your cash, check or electronic method to the next 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

Vice President's Corner
Submitted by Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV

Hey Everyone: At the moment of writing, we are a few days from our updated expo. You will see this afterwards. No matter how it went, I want to thank all of you for helping us get it off the ground in so little time. I can assure you, hundreds of volunteer hours went into this Expo. Considering we took over with less than six months to pull it together, pending having burnt the center to the ground, I am going to consider it a success. In other news, we are now getting ready for ARRL's Field Day. We will once again be in Germantown to showcase our abilities to be a national resource. I hope that we can see all of your smiling faces, or at least make a contact with you in June. In the meantime, get on the air and get those radio voices ready. Get on our own repeaters (or any in the region) for that matter. Get some rag-chewing in. It's great to just talk to people. Even deep down introverts like myself can have fun doing it that way. Until we meet again: Stay safe, and 73.

Tyle Henley, KQ4QEV

Program's Corner
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

The Expo was a smashing! I hope everyone had a chance to come by. Lots of good learning opportunities for future events.

This week's program will be with Palomar Engineering's chief engineer Bob Brehm AK6R. If you are interested in learning about, building, or optimizing an Off-Center Fed Dipoles, then this will be a great resource. If you want to read ahead, you can download Palomar's OFCD pdf for free here <https://palomar-engineers.com/antenna-products/baluns-and-ununs/Off-Center-Fed-Antenna-Confidence-Learn-How-to-Design-Build-and-Install-OCF-Antennas-5th-Edition-FREE-DOWNLOAD-p788469653>

HAM 101 is going to be a show and tell of my Starlink Mini. We'll start inside discussing the device, its utility, and power options before moving outside to see it in action.

Adam White, K4SPB
DARC Director of Programs

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

In March we did a Part 107 drone flight to see our antennas at the 146.820 site. The photos of the original site for the 146.82 antenna, with the current DMR antenna, and the current 146.820 antenna. Tom AC5MR was the Part 107 drone pilot using his DJI drone with a nice zoom lens. I was staring up in the sky with binoculars trying to see the tiny drone up in the air. The quality of the zoom makes it look like we were right up next to the tower. Yes, RF can interfere with a drone so Tom flew the drone to around 150 feet away from the tower. The bracket for the DMR antenna has allowed a tilt, but seems secure for the moment. Things seem secure for the 146.820 antenna. Nothing obvious sticks out. More to come. Thanks Tom!

I really enjoyed the hamfest. I received a lot of positive feedback. Sellers brought a lot of variety and good equipment. I programmed about 4 radios for hams who needed some help understanding their radios. We will continue to provide this help at Ham 101 every meeting night. We had a lot of forums this year. I sat in on Billy WL4B's seminar on Tactical Disaster Communications: Lessons Learned. He and his fellow USAR teammates worked through very adverse conditions to get repeaters up so that USAR crews could have communications. There were many simple lessons that I learned that can be applied to ham radio. We also can do portable repeaters to deploy to different areas. POTA and Field Day are good opportunities to get away from the comfy ham shack and learn about taking your radio with you and getting the power and antennas going to communicate with others in less than ideal conditions. See you at the meeting! Hope to see you at Field Day in June!



Dan
AA4DF

Youtube Addict

- Do you really need a Hotspot?

<https://youtu.be/LVjJWmSCAdw>

- Installing Your Own Offline Wikipedia & AI Server — Project Nomad Setup

<https://youtu.be/Ab5EbJmf7xE>

- New Iranian Intelligence Signal Discovered On Air

<https://youtu.be/aQtmHXQeRz8>

- This \$40 LoRa Board Does APRS Better Than Your \$200 Radio

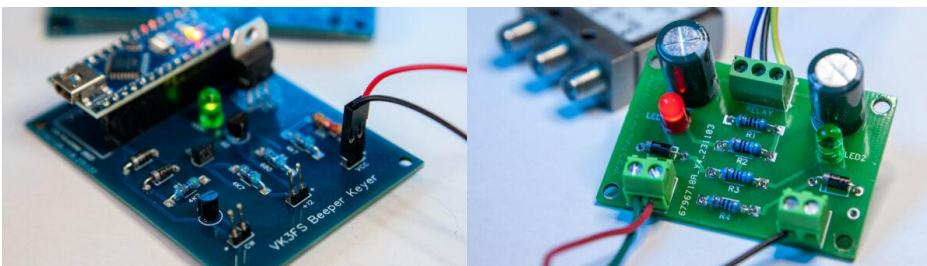
<https://youtu.be/KogLj2OE7jA>

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/>

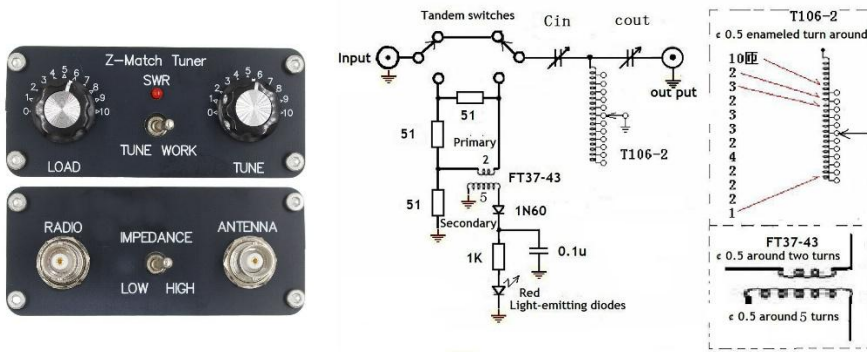


James Butler
KB4LJ

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
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			
February 28, 2026 through March 31, 2026			
SUMMARY			
Beginning Balance	\$13,096.20	Minimum Daily Balance	\$12,312
Deposits & Credits	\$8,544.72 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$15,008
Withdrawals	\$171.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$1,128.39 -		
Ending Balance	\$20,341.53		
DEPOSITS & CREDITS			
03/02	Deposit - Thank You		20.00
03/11	Square Inc Sq260311 Delta Amateur		4.72
03/12	Square Inc Sq260312 Delta Amateur		60.00
03/12	Deposit - Thank You		180.00
03/12	Deposit - Thank You		40.00
03/12	Deposit - Thank You		40.00
03/20	Deposit - Thank You		75.00
03/23	Deposit - Thank You		8,045.00
03/31	Deposit - Thank You		80.00
Total Deposits & Credits			\$8,544.72
WITHDRAWALS			
03/27	Executive Force Sale Delta Amateur		171.00
CHECKS			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
03/16	1678	1,000.00	
03/13	1679	104.41	
Total Checks			\$1,128.39
* Break In Check Number Sequence.			

Applications Received - March 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
(13) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$320.00
(1) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$25.00
(1) Donations Received		\$20.00
	Total Dues Received	\$365.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$40.00
Expo - ARRL Grant		\$8,000.00
Expo - Table sales		\$80.00
Expo - Admissions		\$15.00
Expo - Donations (net of Square fees \$0.28)		\$44.72
	Total Other Deposits	\$8,179.72
	Total Deposits	\$8,544.72
Withdrawals & Debits		
Executive Force - Expo Security		\$171.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$171.00
Checks		
Check #1678 - CMG Memphis - Expo Advertising		\$1,000.00
Check #1679 - Josh Cunningham - Meeting Refreshments		\$104.41
Check #1680 - Josh Cunningham - Meeting Refreshments		\$23.98
Check #1681 - Joe Plunk - Club Hotspot (\$120.00 outstanding)		\$0.00
	Total Payments	\$1,128.39

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,649.91	3.680 %	\$52.16	\$22.26
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$52.16	\$227.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	2/22/2026	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>
\$12,060.24	2.960 %	\$89.64	\$68.65
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER *8503			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$89.64	\$448.45	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$11,000.00	1/22/2026	5/22/2027	
▲ Hide More Details			

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

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes April 7, 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, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

Absent: Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Programs, Adam White K4SPB.

Guests: Expo Hamfest Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, Billy Freeman, WL4B, Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Don Strahl, KZ4GJ.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on April 7, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said everyone is looking forward to the Radio Active Mid-South Expo.

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

Paul Broom presented the membership applications that had been received since the March 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 April Treasurer's Report, covering transactions for the month of March.

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 April.

Expo Hamfest Chairman Steve Frazier said that Scott Adams had found a great deal on drinks for the Expo.

Joe Plunk discussed the program topics for Ham 101 and the April Membership Meeting, which had been submitted by Director of Programs Adam White.

Joe Plunk said that Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek is working on a proposal and cost estimate for the 146.82 tower climb.

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

Joe Plunk reminded everyone that Field Day will be held June 27-28 at Germantown Municipal Park.

Joe Plunk said that the bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest will be held on August 22nd. Joe Lowenthal said he wanted to go ahead and reserve the bus, in order to lock-in the same rate as last year. The price of the food has gone up.

Johnathan Urschel made a motion to authorize Joe Lowenthal to reserve a bus with Cline Tours, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Lowenthal said the fee for the bus trip will be \$100, if paid before July 1st, and \$120 thereafter. Extra family members will be charged \$75. There will be 50 seats available on the bus.

All DARC business having been discussed, Joe Plunk turned over the floor to Expo Hamfest Chairman Steve Frazier.

Steve Frazier said that the exhibit hall at the Agricenter International will be open for load-in on Friday. Hicks, the company furnishing the tables and chairs, will set up from 9am-1pm. There will be 75 tables and 300 chairs.

Steve said DARC can access the exhibit hall at 7am on Saturday. Volunteers should arrive between 7:30-8:00am. Security will be on site from 8:00am to 6:00pm. The Expo is scheduled to operate from 9am-5pm.

There was a discussion about charging admission to kids under the age of 18. There was a consensus that kids under age 18 would not be charged admission, but would not receive a door prize ticket. State law seems to preclude kids under 18 from participating in the drawing.

Steve said access to the exhibit hall would be available on Sunday, and that Hicks would pick up the tables and chairs on Monday.

There was a discussion about the Expo information on the DARC website: deltaclub.org/expo.

Steve said that all advertising was complete, only 2 or 3 tables are left, and there will be a good presence from local amateur radio clubs.

Billy Freeman said all of the seminars and roundtable discussions are ready to go. There will be 10 seminars, a club leadership roundtable and an ARRL roundtable.

There was a detailed discussion about the concession area. Topics included: snacks and drinks, the \$1 price for the snacks and drinks, coolers, ice and volunteers. Scott Adams discussed his plans for the concession area.

Steve Frazier said he would be picking up the prize barrel and sound system from LeBonheur on Thursday. There was a discussion about projectors, a powerpoint presentation, monitors and additional audio equipment.

There was a detailed discussion about the door prizes and tickets.

There was a discussion about signs and other items that need to be printed.

There was a discussion about radio stations that will be operating during the Expo, as well as amateur radio frequencies that will be used by the public and frequencies that will be used by the Expo team.

Paul Broom discussed the use of Square to accept electronic payments, cash boxes which will be used to accept payments, and procedures to verify initial cash on hand and cash received.

There was a discussion about DARC members and Expo volunteers having to pay for admission. There was a consensus that all adults attending the Expo would have to pay for admission.

Joe Plunk thanked Steve Frazier and all of the Expo volunteers for the tremendous amount of work they have done. He thanked the ARRL Foundation for their generous grant, which will allow DARC to get the Expo Hamfest off the ground, and which allowed DARC to proceed without worrying about possible financial risks.

Joe also thanked Steve for his excellent grant proposal, which ARRL said was among the best they have ever received.

There was some additional discussion about printing and signs.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 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

March 10, 2025

The March 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 10th at First Evangelical Church (First Evan). The President served as the chair and the Secretary was absent. Club President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 37 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, 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.

Absent: Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

President Joe Plunk 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.

VE Liaison Don Strahl, KZ4GJ, announced that three people earned their amateur radio licenses at the evening's testing session.

The club wished Rick Kanschat, N0KYN, a Happy Birthday.

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. The motion passed without opposition.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD Members had announcements.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that four members of the latest Extra Class License Class have tested. One more student will probably test, for a total of five out of six that finished the class. The latest Technician Class License Class started with thirteen students and currently has eleven students participating. One student has already passed the Technician and General Class exams.

Joe Plunk announced that DARC can now accept credit card payments for dues and donations.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that he is looking into everything necessary to get the 146.82 repeater issues resolved. Dan is getting a parts list together and will make a presentation to the membership, who will need to approve the expenditure for the equipment and the tower climb. Dan says that he wants to fix all of the problems during the climb, so further trips up the tower will not be necessary. More details to follow.

Dan also said that he is still working on the issues with the APRS digipeater at Methodist North.

Mark Bledsoe, KO4KQA, announced that he brought some mini computers that his company was no longer using. He offered them for free to anyone that was interested.

Expo Hamfest Committee Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, gave some updates. The Expo will be held at the Agricenter International on April 11th. Steve said at least 40 of the 54 available tables have been booked. He described the layout of the exhibit space.

Steve said he will be contacting volunteers soon. Joe Plunk reminded everyone about the QR code in *Sparks*, which can be used to sign up as a volunteer. Joe asked everyone to be on the lookout for emails about the Expo hamfest meetings.

Joe Plunk also announced that the ARRL Foundation awarded an \$8,000 grant to DARC - to offset the costs of the Expo hamfest.

Director of Programs Adam White made a presentation about Vara Chat (VarAC), a keyboard-to-keyboard digital mode that had been discussed at the January DARC meeting. Adam discussed the use of FLRIG and the VarAC software. Adam called CQ and talked about how a QSO is conducted.

Adam then demonstrated JS8Call, another popular keyboard-to-keyboard digital mode, that was adapted from FT8. He discussed some of the options available in the software. Adam called CQ and discussed how to conduct a JS8Call QSO.

Dr. George Flinn, Jr., K4EQO, President of Flinn Broadcasting, announced that the company has full and part-time positions available for radio engineers. Those interested may contact Dr. Flinn at WHBQ@aol.com.

Director of Programs Adam White and Shawn Thomas, KN4WKF, made a presentation about FDM (fused deposition modeling) 3-D printing. Adam discussed the benefits of 3-D printing to the ham radio hobby, how to find 3-D print designs, and how to design your own 3-D printed items.

Adam and Shawn gave numerous tips and suggestions on 3-D printing. They showed many examples of ham radio-related 3-D prints. Adam also gave away many 3-D printed items.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Josh Cunningham made the motion, which was seconded by Bill Flanigan, KK4VPS. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 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

0 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 1st of this year.

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 **Technician** license class will start in early July 2026.

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 2-26 – February 23 – April 20, 2026

A Technician license class is being held on six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 20. The classes will be via Zoom except for the 5th class which is an opportunity to take the FCC exam. There is no class on March 9th. There were 13 students in the first class. Four students completed the class. Congratulations to Rebecca KR4KNE 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. The equipment demonstrators during the sixth class will be 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

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)
<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

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!

2026 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
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
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)	8:30p	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



Hamsource
Quality Accessories for the Shack and Field
John Kalotai, N1OLO
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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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