

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 121 * February 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, January 13th, 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**
 - HF Radio setup/diag
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Part One – Dave Thomas, KM4NYI, ARRL TN Section Manager (Zoom)
 - Part Two – Club Business (budget), Introduce EFHW group build, Introduce Discord

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

If you haven't guessed yet, this is what the club has agreed to call the new event! We have a page up on our club website <https://deltaclub.org/expo> for you to follow. Please check it out as we move closer to the event for more updates. Most of the below forums are locked in and will be available during the event. As you may be aware, one of the primary goals for ARRL and the grant they're giving us with this year's event was that it be focused on emergency communications and we feel that a lot of these really fit into that focus well and will help with the grant process.

- Backup Power: Generators, Inverters, Batteries, etc.
- How is a Disaster Managed: A Practical Guide Volunteers.
- Disaster Response: Lessons Learned
- Understanding Disaster Communications: Lessons Learned
- Building Your Communications Equipment Go-Kit
- Building Your Personal Equipment Go-Kit
- Meshtastic: Getting Started
- DMR (Digital Mobile Radio): Getting Started
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV)
- DHS-AUXCOMM: Volunteer Auxiliary Communications

Speaking about the grant process, the board and event committee members put a lot of effort into agreeing on a proposed budget and Steve Frazier KK4VPT made the submission last week to the ARRL for their review and commentary. We are marching toward April 11th quickly. So far, we have 16 volunteers who have signed up! If you are willing and able, please think about how you can contribute to the event's success and sign up at the link below any time.

<https://forms.gle/62DC8xpcMoC94DRd6>

Roster of Committee Members

1. Chairman - Steve Frazier KK4VPT
2. Publicity - Fred Miller KS2X
3. Seminars coordinator - Billy Freeman WL4BMX
4. FCC Testing - Don Strahl KZ4GJ
5. Treasurer - Paul Broom KY4MX

2026 Budget Proposal

2026 Budget Proposal	2023 Proposed	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	2024 Actual	2025 Proposed	2025 Actual	2026 Proposed
Donations (cash)	50.00	400.00	50.00	739.00	50.00	1,346.46	500.00
Donations for Internet Hotspot (Necessary for DMR repeater)					456.00	456.00	-
Membership (Jan. thru Dec.)	2,000.00	1,640.00	2,000.00	2,570.00	2,000.00	1,815.00	2,000.00
ARRL Affiliated Club Commissions	-	155.00	-	5.00	5.00	35.00	-
Club Patches	-	-	-	-	80.00	110.00	-
Estate Sale	1,500.00	5,882.65	1,500.00	783.00	750.00	754.36	750.00
Advertisement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Huntsville Trip	2,500.00	1,857.00	2,500.00	2,224.00	2,500.00	2,925.00	2,500.00
Donations - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Scholarship 2023	-	746.00	-	-	-	-	-
Donations - Huntsville Hamfest Bus Scholarship 2024	-	-	200.00	1,400.00	-	385.00	-
Interest Income						675.46	500.00
Other - Antenna Order	-	-	-	-	-	1,339.00	-
Other - Misc	-	-	-	-	-	123.00	-
Radio Expo - ARRL Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,650.00
Radio Expo - Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,800.00
Total Estimated Income:	6,050.00		6,250.00		5,841.00		22,700.00
Total Actual Income:		10,680.65		7,721.00		9,964.28	
Tn. Annual Report	(120.00)	(20.95)	(120.00)	(20.95)	(50.00)	(20.46)	(25.00)
Meeting Space Donation	(300.00)	(500.00)	(300.00)	(300.00)	(400.00)	(400.00)	(400.00)
Training	(50.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)	-	(50.00)	-	(50.00)
Zoom Meeting Annual Subscription					(174.69)	(174.68)	(350.00)
Website Hosting Annual Fee					(171.08)	(171.09)	(175.00)
Domain Name Registration					(51.49)	-	-
Meeting Refreshments	(500.00)	(754.43)	(800.00)	(579.19)	(800.00)	(483.14)	(650.00)
Food (December Meeting)	(100.00)	(64.98)	(100.00)	(53.50)	(100.00)	-	(100.00)
Door Prizes	(500.00)	(461.80)	(500.00)	(498.85)	(500.00)	(500.00)	(650.00)
PO Box (Annual Rental)	(312.00)	(332.00)	(332.00)	(342.00)	(352.00)	(360.00)	(375.00)
Equipment Insurance	(236.00)	(235.48)	(236.00)	(235.48)	(300.00)	(302.11)	(350.00)
Club Liability Insurance	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)	(200.00)
Repeater System Maintenance	(1,000.00)	(4,010.45)	(1,000.00)	(5,289.11)	(1,000.00)	(737.27)	(1,000.00)
Repeater Site Internet Access (One-Time Equipment & Activation Fee)					(299.83)	(299.83)	-
Repeater Site Internet Access (Service \$120/Year)					(120.00)	(120.00)	(150.00)
SouthEastern Repeater Assn.	(35.00)	(70.00)	(35.00)	-	(35.00)	-	(70.00)
Field Day	(250.00)	(227.65)	(250.00)	(187.17)	(250.00)	(174.96)	(350.00)
DARC Board Discretionary Fund	(1,000.00)	(1,305.95)	(1,000.00)	(694.69)	(1,000.00)	(247.17)	(1,000.00)
Huntsville Trip	(3,000.00)	(2,758.78)	(3,000.00)	(3,241.38)	(3,300.00)	(3,564.78)	(3,875.00)
Free Fest Donations	(200.00)	-	(200.00)	(170.00)	(250.00)	(200.00)	-
Other - Antenna Order costs						(1,348.00)	-
Other - KrakenSDR receiver							-
Radio Expo - Expenses						(2,640.00)	(10,650.00)
Projected Total Expenses	(7,803.00)		(8,123.00)		(9,404.09)		(20,420.00)
Actual Total Expenses		(10,992.47)		(11,812.32)		(11,943.49)	
Checking Acct:	20,112.52		21,696.94		15,248.39		12,967.94
CD #8481	5,025.01		5,107.73		5,370.74		5,597.75
CD #8503	11,062.00		11,248.05		11,522.15		11,970.60
Total	36,199.53		38,052.72		32,141.28		30,536.29

Delta Club Training

Tech Class 2-26 – February 23 – April 6, 2026

A Technician license class is planned for six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 if there are 10 students registered for the class. 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. If interested, send an email with Subject: Tech Class and name, email address and cellphone number in text to wa4ovo@gmail.com.

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

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

An Extra Class license class is being held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 3, 10, 31, February 7, 14 and 21. There will not be a class on January 17 and 24th to allow the students and presenters to participate in Swamp Stompers and Winter Field Day. The class will have an opportunity to take the in-person FCC exam on the last class, February 21st.

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. There were seven in the class on January 31st.

Congratulations to Larry KQ4DFU who passed his Extra exam at the Delta Club FCC test session on January 13th.

The instructors are Don KZ4GJ, David KY4FH, Josh KQ4IOS, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO.

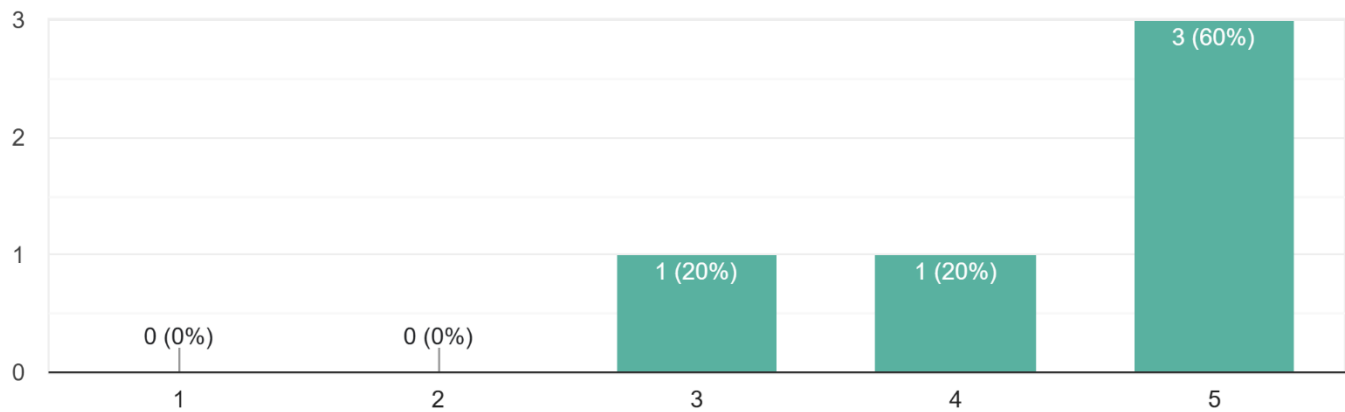
The Delta Club ARRL VEC team will provide the FCC test session.

February Membership Meeting Signal Report

I wanted to share the “Signal Report” from the meeting last month. We had 5 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. 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.

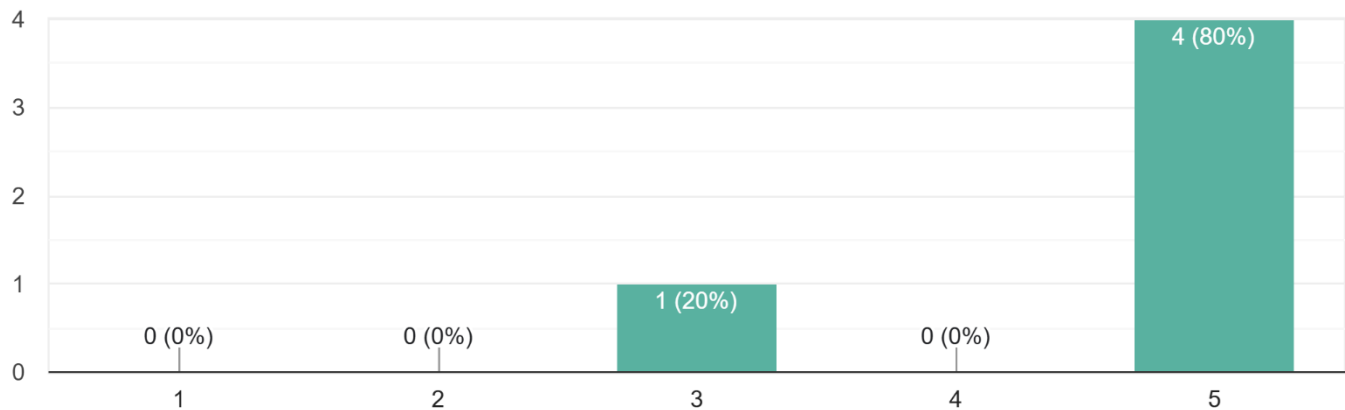
How satisfied were you with the event?

5 responses

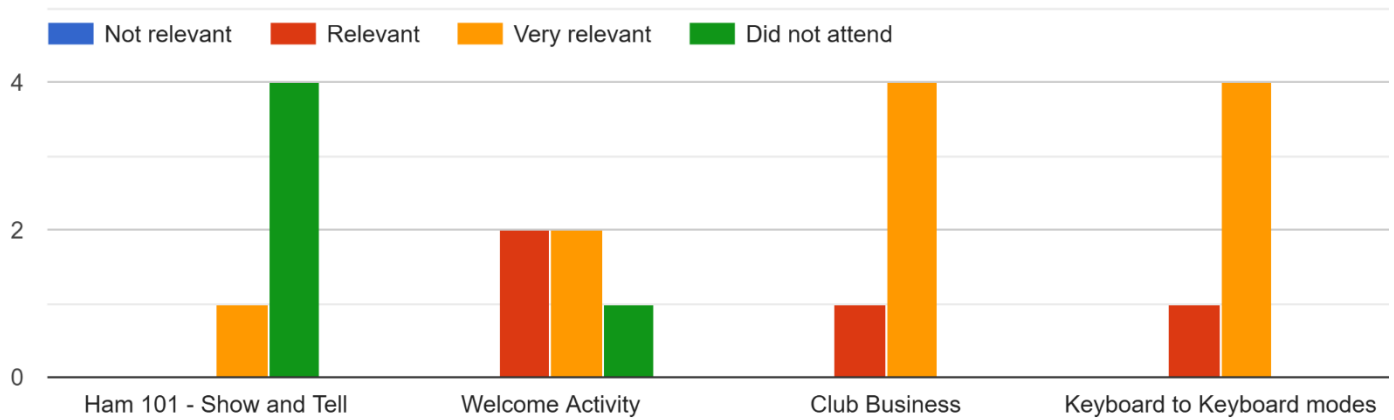


How relevant and helpful do you think it was to our hobby?

5 responses

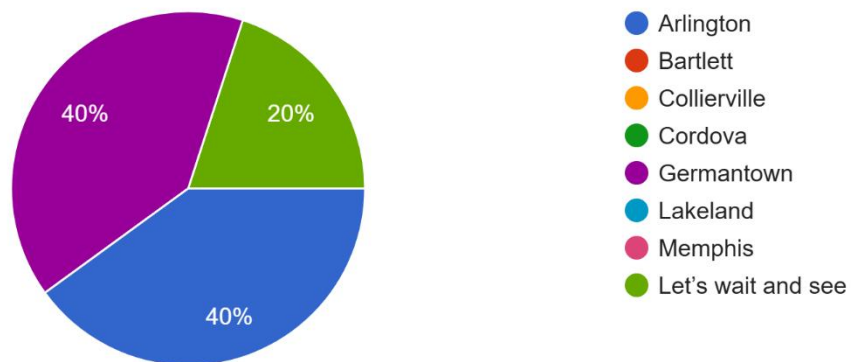


Which sessions did you find most relevant?



If the club could meet anywhere in Shelby County where would you like to see us meet?

5 responses



News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

2026 is shaping up to be an exciting year. We have many new plans and lots of old activities that are available to enjoy our hobby. I am most excited about the Expo this year in April. Please see the announcement in this issue of Sparks. I am also excited this year about the new programs and activities that are being planned. Please stay tuned for those. I would like to ask you to do three things for the club this month.

First, please attend the membership meeting next week. We are working on finalizing our meeting location for the year and would love your input.

Second, please plan on volunteering or attending the Radio Active Mid-South Expo on April 11th. It has a full slate of amazing forums and the vendor lineup is growing every day.

Third, please renew your membership. Your membership is a fantastic value and helps the club in many ways. We are thankful that you join us.

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

Winter Field Day was a flop thanks to the weather. I hope everyone was safe and warm during the snowpocalypse..

At our last meeting, a new attendee was asking for help with programming their radio. The driver was the likely issue, and the manufacturer doesn't even provide the driver on their site, you must get it from a separate vendor. Windows 11 is creating more issues with the file system every day, but I finally have that driver. If you need help with radio programming, come on down to Ham101 at 6PM before the meeting in room A111 and we will get it figured out together.

This month's presenter will be ARRL TN Section Manager David Thomas KM4NYI. We will have lots of time for Q&A so if you have any questions about the league or activities in Tennessee, write them down, or even better send them to me (programs@deltacub.org) in advance and I will forward them for him to address. There will be a door prize for one lucky member in attendance so definitely come on down for this presentation.

Jason, KC5HWP, recently posted a video on hostile ham clubs. Many around the country may have experienced this problem but I definitely do not want anyone to think this about us. This is the video that inspired me to create a Discord group. Please join us there, even if you aren't already on Discord, we already have a solid community discussing things and problem solving. This video and others have also prompted me to create a new Sparks section called YouTube Addict.

Discord QR Code – Scan this with your Discord App on your mobile device to gain access to this new resource!



Youtube Addict
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

Gabe, KL1FI, a Youtuber of the saveitforparts channel recently produced a good video on organizing an electronics work bench. He includes considerations such as lighting, power supplies, and test equipment. Having a dedicated space for projects and repairs is always nice because it means there's less inertia to build something new or fix something old. I'm blessed to have room for just such a space and was considering making it a topic for a presentation. What do you guys use for your electronics work space?

If you have ever bought magnet wire to build some antennas and considered why such products are so readily available on everyone's favorite shopping website, John at the Farmcraft101 channel demonstrates rewinding a new 12V alternator into a lower amperage, higher voltage alternator for an off grid hydroelectric generator. He covers electromagnetism, phase, current, and polarity. It is an excellent example of power generation which can also be reversed to understand electric motors. In a vehicle alternator, these currents go through a rectifier to produce Direct Current. For the ongoing project, John is building a high voltage DC hydroelectric generator Check it out here.

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

The weather for the last couple of weeks has prohibited much work on things repeater wise. It looks like the weather will start to improve and we can get back to working on things. There is always work to do and I appreciate all the help that I've had.

During the weather event, a few check-in sessions for weather reports were held by the Memphis NWS net control. Many participated and were able to give a wide variety of reports of the weather and impacts of the winter storm. The NWS appreciated the detailed reports. I am glad that we can participate in this with our club resources.

I am excited about the hamfest in April. My favorite part is the social aspect of a hamfest. I have made many contacts and gathered good information at hamfests. The forums are looking good with good quality forum leaders presenting topics that they have in-depth knowledge of. Consider volunteering to help. Many hands make a job much easier. Also, please realize that things may not be perfect and will improve year over year. I have attended most of the Dayton Hamventions in the last 30 years and I attended the year the Hamvention had to move to the fairgrounds. It was a muddy mess. Some figured that year was the last to attend, but the rest of us realized that the committee had done a lot of work to pull off a first-year change and would continue to improve. This year is the start of something good if we support our local hamfest and help it grow and improve. See you there!

Dan AA4DF

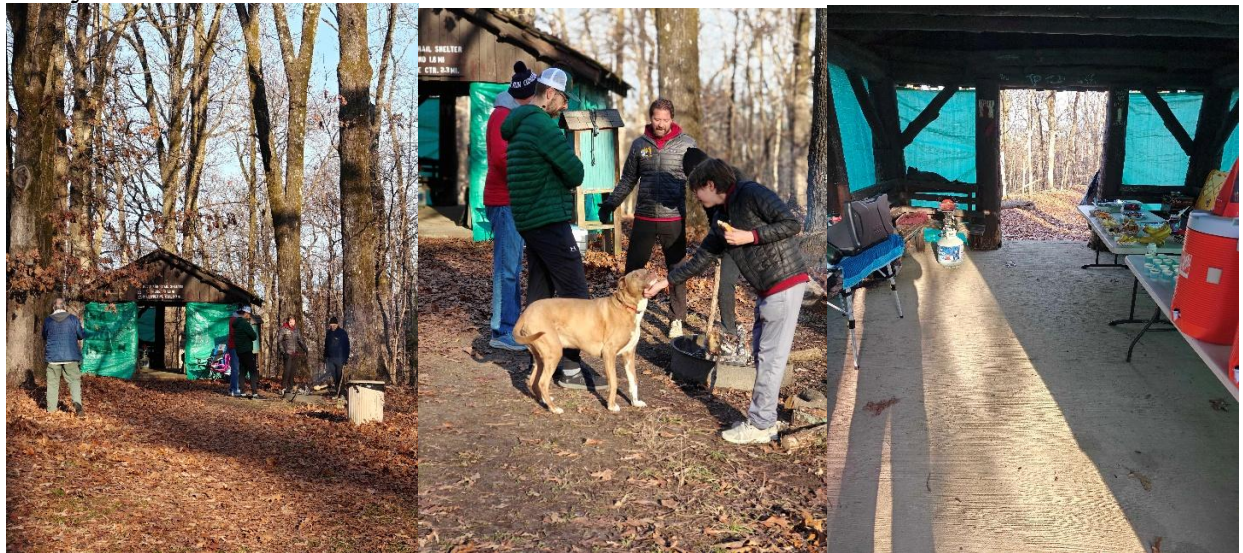
Swamp Stompers

Submitted by Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ

Steve Frazier KK4VPT, the team leader of this event, is on vacation right now so I'm going to make this submission in his stead. The team all met up at the General Store as planned and over some coffee and breakfast discussed the plans for each team. Then we rolled out and got to work! This was my first year participating in the event and I must say it was a lot of fun! I can't speak for the other teams, but I know that Tom Dichiara AC5MR and I had a wonderful time putting the Ed Fong antenna that a lot of the club bought last year up in a great pine tree that was right next to the aid station. Thanks to Tom, I learned a lot about how to get things going in the field. His mobile radio was capable of doing crossband repeater mode, so we were able to link up to the repeater over the mobile radio and then with that crossband repeater maneuver we were able to set our HTs to a 70cm frequency and roam around the aid station perfectly able to communicate. It was an awesome setup. Also, as a group we had a discussion after the event about possibly just going completely repeater free and using simplex given that

up at the Woodland Shelter aid station where we were we could clearly hear every station. The event was a great success with a lot of fast runners and as far as I know no real emergencies this year. There was a lot of fun and camaraderie had at our aid station I know. It was very cold for sure but there was a blazing pit fire going that kept us warm. I highly recommend participating next year when it comes around. I would like to thank each of the participants for their support. I would like to call out Rebecca who literally came to her first club meeting for help with her new DMR radio and was already volunteering for this event the same night! I know we are looking forward to her other contributions to the club and her getting her license and on the air soon!

Steve Frazier	KK4VPT
Shawn Thomas	KN4WKF
Tom Dichiaro	AC5MR
Bill Flanigan	KK4VPS
Rebecca Schrrod	N/A
Mary Jean Hall	KY4FB
Roger Schlichter	WR4R
Larry Charnes	KR4DFU





Bravo Zulu Volunteers!
73,
Johnathan KO4QWAQ

Packet Update
Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

A program I have found is UTC World Clock. It is a small program that displays UTC and local time in a small window on your main computer screen. The window can be moved around to any location on your screen. When you right click on the on screen clock you can select options the program offers. The color of the display can be set. A frame of different styles and colors can also be selected. Displayed time options can also be selected from the menu. This is a great program to show UTC and local time on your computer screen. If you do a search for UTC World Clock you will find various links to download something similar.



James Butler
KB4LJV

Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

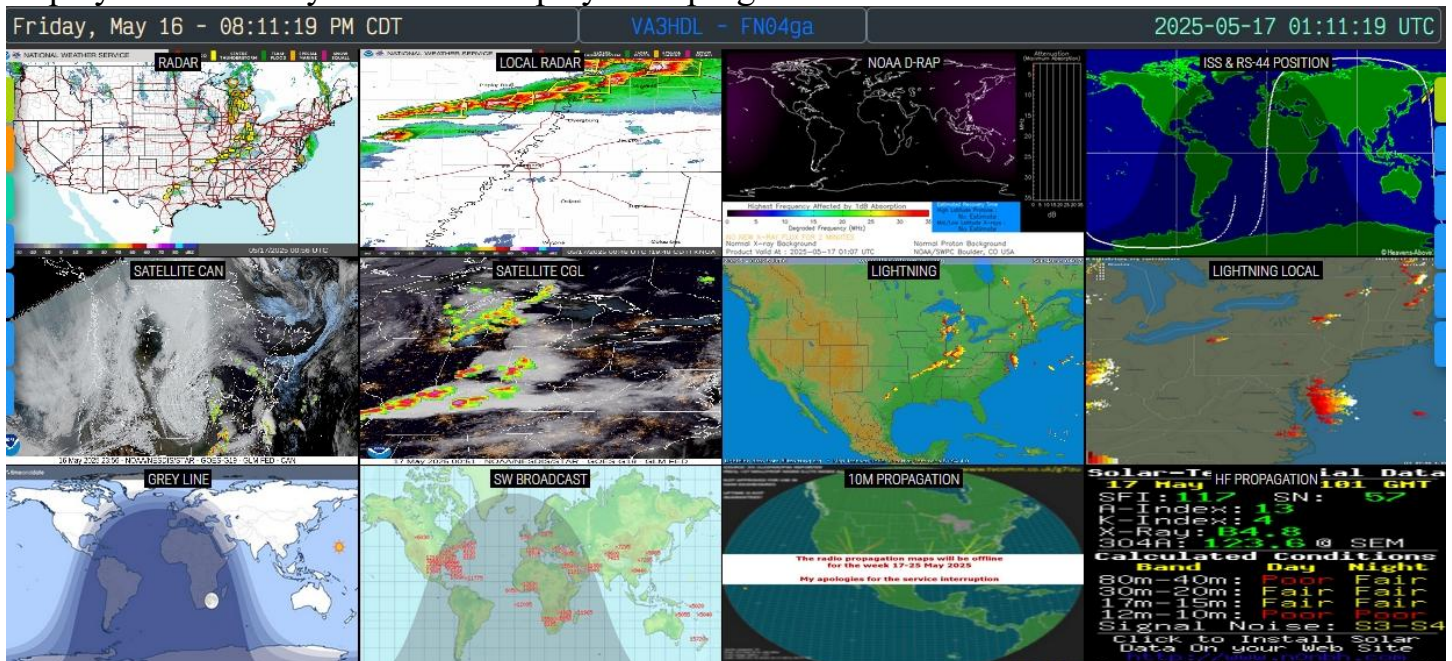
Many websites on the internet allow you to display ham radio information. These sites display world clock times, satellite data, gray line displays, Local radar, HF propagation maps, and solar information. I stored these sites on my main screen as shortcuts I could choose to display. A program has come out that allows you to display multiple sites on you computer screen at the same time. The program called Ham Dashboard will let you set up a script file that will automatically load multiple sites you want to display on the screen. The program allows you to select how many windows you want to display which will set the window size. The software constantly goes to each site to update the windows as it runs. This is a great way to display lots of ham radio, radar data, and additional data from sites you select.

The web address for the program is <https://github.com/VA3HDL/hamdashboard?tab=readme-ov-file>

The web address for the manual is

<https://nject.us/HAMSHACK-DASHBOARD-DOCUMENTATION.pdf>

These sites contain the manual and how to download the program. You can easily modify the display for the sites you want to display. The program is free.



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

January 1, 2026 through January 30, 2026

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$12,967.94	Minimum Daily Balance	\$12,764
Deposits & Credits	\$280.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$12,888
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$374.22 -		
Ending Balance	\$12,873.72		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

01/21	Deposit - Thank You	280.00
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CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
01/13	1673	203.13	01/22	1674	171.09
			Total Checks		\$374.22

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
01/13	12,764.81	01/21	13,044.81	01/22	12,873.72

Applications Received - January 2026		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(4) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$80.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(9) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$180.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(1) Donations Received		\$20.00
	Total Dues Received	\$280.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(0) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$0.00
Sale of Delta Club Patches (0 @ \$5)		\$0.00
Estate Sales		\$0.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$0.00
	Total Deposits	\$280.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1673 - Dan Fleek - Allstar node parts		\$203.13
Check #1674 - Joe Plunk - Web hosting fee		\$171.09
Check #1677 - Josh Cunningham - Refreshments (66.52 outstanding)		\$0.00
	Total Payments	\$374.22

SMALL BUSINESS CD *8481

Available Balance	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>YTD INTEREST</u>	<u>INTEREST EARNED NOT PAID</u>
\$5,597.75	3.680 %	\$0.00	\$40.78
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*8481			
ISSUE DATE	LAST INTEREST AMOUNT PAID	PREVIOUS YEAR INTEREST	
10/28/2022	\$51.68	\$227.01	
ISSUE VALUE	DATE LAST INTEREST PAID	MATURITY DATE	
\$5,000.00	11/22/2025	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	\$10.76
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 February 3, 2026

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - February 3, 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, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel, KO4WAQ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO.

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

Guests: Hamfest Expo Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT.

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on February 3, 2026, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present.

President Joe Plunk called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Secretary Perry Hayes called the roll and declared a quorum.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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 present the minutes to the membership, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Broom presented the new and renewal membership applications that had been received since the January BOD meeting. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed without opposition.

Treasurer Paul Broom presented the January Treasurer's Report, covering the transactions for the month of January. Paul reported that the Certificate of Deposit ending in *8503 received an interest payment during the month.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Dan Fleek. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek said that the temporary Yaesu repeater at the University of Memphis site is working. The regular repeater is very old and will probably need to be scrapped. Dan is considering several options for replacing the repeater.

Paul Broom, Dan Fleek and Joe Plunk discussed the possibility of filing a claim on the club's equipment insurance policy.

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

Paul Broom reviewed the proposed 2026 DARC Budget. There were not many changes since the last meeting. There was a brief discussion about some of the line items.

There was a discussion about how the Hamfest Expo budget should be set out in the DARC Budget.

The Hamfest Expo will have its own, detailed budget. There was a consensus that a simplified, three line-item presentation (2 for income and one for expenses) in the DARC budget was sufficient.

Johnathan Urschel made a motion to accept the proposed budget, as presented, which was seconded by Tyler Henley. The motion passed without opposition.

Director of Publications Johnathan Urschel asked about some items for the February issue of *Sparks*.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that the Extra Class License class is still meeting. 7 of 10 students attended the last class session.

Joe said a Technician Class License class is scheduled to begin on February 23rd and meet on Monday nights through April 6th (skipping March 9th) via Zoom. Joe said the online class offering is proving to be popular, with 15 students already registered.

Joe Lowenthal also asked about the e-mail list for DARC publications being up to date. Joe Plunk said he would get with Johnathan Urschel.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 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
January 13, 2025

The January 2026 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 13th 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 7:03pm. There were 50 members and visitors in attendance.

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

Absent: Club Historian John Reiners, KN4BVH.

President Joe Plunk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Joe Plunk asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

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

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had an announcement.

Vice President Tyler Henley said he was looking forward to a good 2026 for DARC. He was excited about the Swamp Stomper Race and Winter Field Day.

Director of Programs Adam White said that Winter Field Day set-up would be on Friday, January 23 and activation would be Saturday and Sunday, January 24-25 at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. Detailed location information is available in Sparks.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that the current Extra Class License class has 10 students, one of whom passed their exam tonight.

A Technician Class License class is scheduled to begin on February 23rd and run on Monday nights through April 6th (skipping March 9th) via Zoom. Anyone interested should email Joe at wa4ovo@gmail.com.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek reported that the 443.200 repeater no longer has a squelch tail or roger beep. It will take a while to fix the old repeater.

Dan said there was a visit to the 146.82 repeater site in Brunswick. Michael Knight, KK4IOH, and Allen Wood, N5ALN, did some testing and the duplexers were swapped, in order to identify the source of the noise. After the visit, the team determined that the problems are up on the tower, and that a climb will be necessary.

Dan said that he wanted to achieve as much as possible during the climb. He and the Repeater Committee will get some estimates together about the cost of the climb and the cost of replacing some aged equipment during the climb.

There was a discussion about the location(s) of the DARC meetings for the rest of 2026. Joe Plunk said that First Evan has graciously offered to host the monthly membership meetings this year. Dr. Randy Redd said DARC is also welcome to meet at the new Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary (Mid-America) campus in Arlington (5640 Airline Road), but it may be March (or later) before the space would be available.

Markham Bledsoe, KO4KQA, made a motion that the DARC meet at First Evan in February and at Mid-America in March and April. A vote would be taken in April to see where the membership would like to meet after that. There was a second by Bill Flanigan, KK4VPS. The motion passed with one “nay” vote.

Hamfest Committee Chairman Steve Frazier, KK4VPT, made a presentation and led a discussion about the hamfest, to be held on Saturday, April 11th.

Steve showed maps of the Agricenter International location, as well as diagrams of the exhibit area.

Steve said the Hamfest would be a great opportunity for DARC to grow its membership. He said that it was a bad time of year to get commitments from vendors, but he was remaining in contact with them. Steve also said that DARC would not officially sanction a swapmeet this year, because DARC would have to pay for the outside area.

There was a discussion about the seminar space and possible topics. Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, will set up a STEM area.

Steve and Joe Plunk talked about the many volunteers that will be needed for the hamfest. There will be around 14 leadership positions to fill, and general volunteers needed in each area.

Steve and Joe talked about a possible grant from the ARRL Foundation to help defray the costs of starting up the hamfest. ARRL realizes that having a hamfest in the Memphis area is important to the amateur radio community. ARRL is expected to help with funding for three years, so DARC can get the hamfest off the ground. ARRL would like for EmComm and Emergency Preparedness to be the major theme of the hamfest. Steve asked for any volunteers who are skilled in graphic design. He would like to have some artwork done to display on the electronic billboards at the entrances to the Agricenter.

There was a lengthy discussion about having a concession stand, and the work involved. Johnathan Urschel made a motion that only snacks and drinks be offered this year, which was seconded by Joe Lowenthal. The motion passed with one “nay” vote.

There was a lengthy discussion about what seminars, displays and activities that people would like to see at the hamfest.

A QR code was distributed so that people could sign-up to volunteer.

Joe Plunk and Steve Frazier said they had visited Nashoba Amateur Radio Club, and made a presentation about the hamfest. Nashoba requested a Zoom meeting to discuss the hamfest in more detail, which will be held on January 19th. Anyone interested in joining the Zoom session should contact Joe Plunk.

Director of Programs Adam White made a presentation on “Keyboard to Keyboard Digital Modes.” Adam discussed how digital modes began with RTTY, and progressed to Fldigi, JS8Call and beyond. He also discussed the modulation methods used by the different software suites.

Adam said that keyboard to keyboard digital modes would be demonstrated at Winter Field Day.

Joe Plunk asked everyone to complete a Signal Link survey and to use the QR code to volunteer for the hamfest.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Johnathan Urschel made the motion, which was seconded by John Duty, KK4LST. The motion passed unanimously.

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 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

0 Technician

0 General

1 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 **Technician** license class will start on February 23, 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.

Tech Class 2-26 – February 23 – April 6, 2026

A Technician license class will be held for six Monday nights from 6:15-9:30pm on February 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. 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 are 15 students registered for the class.

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

Current Classes

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

An Extra Class license class is being held via Zoom on 5 Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm on January 3, 10, 31, February 7, 14 and 21. There will not be a class on January 17 and 24th to allow the students and presenters to participate in Swamp Stompers and Winter Field Day. The class will have an opportunity to take the in-person FCC exam on the last class, February 21st. 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. There were seven in the class on January 31st. Congratulations to Larry KQ4DFU who passed his Extra exam at the Delta Club FCC test session on January 13th.

The instructors are Don KZ4GJ, David KY4FH, Josh KQ4IOS, Dave AD4Q, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF, Bobby KD5BS, John KN4BVH and Joe WA4OVO.

The Delta Club ARRL VEC team will provide the FCC test session.

Previous Classes

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



Randall KY4MY on Equipment



Paul KY4MX on Rules & Regs

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

How to Print Your FCC License

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

INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS IN QRZ

Submitted by Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO

Consider going to <https://www.qrz.com> and log in. Then enter your email address on QRZ page so other hams can contact you via email rather snail mail. Anyone looking for email addresses has to log in to QRZ to be able to see the ham's email address. If you go by your middle name or a nickname, you can add a Nickname. After signing in to QRZ, hover over your callsign. Click on Edit (CALLSIGN). Click on Update the basic name. Go to Nickname. Enter your nickname. Go to bottom of page.

ARRL Benefits

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

- Digital access to all four ARRL publications -- QST, On the Air, and QEX. QST is the official membership journal of ARRL or On the Air aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and, on the air, QEX covering topics related to radio communications experimentation, and National Contest Journal (NCJ), covering radio contesting.
- Access to 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!

2026 Board of Directors

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Public Information Officer
OPEN

Club Historian

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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)	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		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

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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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