

SPARKS

P.O. Box 342768 * Memphis, Tennessee 38134-2768 * Volume 110 * March 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, March 11, 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 in 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**
 - Tech Support for DMR by Adam White, K4SPB
- **Meeting Programs begins at 7:00 pm**
 - Meshtastic Overview by Ryan Turner, K0RET

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 VE testing, or FCC FRN information, please contact:

Mike Sparks, KW4RI, VE Liaison

Phone: 901-493-8338

Email: KW4RI@outlook.com

Club Announcements!

Silent Key – Pat Lane III, W4OQG

PAT LANE - SK
February 4, 1943-March 6, 2025
By Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO

It is with sadness that I inform Delta Club members of Pat's passing. We have lost a very knowledgeable and humble Elmer. Funeral services will be held Tuesday March 11, 2025 at Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5668 Poplar Ave. Visitation will be at 10am with services at 11:00am. The obituary is here: <https://www.memorialparkfuneralandcemetery.com/obituaries/richard-lane-27/obituary> or can be found below.

HAM 101 Returns!

Ham 101 this week will be Tech Support for DMR.

Delta Club Training

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 the email.

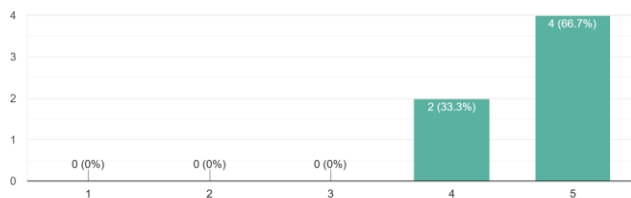
There is a **Technician** license class in process - Tech Class 2-25 – February 24 – April 7, 2025
The next **General** license class will start in November 2025
The next **Extra** license class will start January 2026.

February Membership Meeting Signal Report

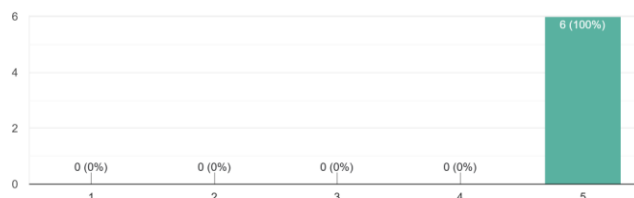
I wanted to share the "Signal Report" from the meeting last month. We had 50 people on the sign in sheet and 6 surveys submitted. The results are shown below. Based on the survey data the programs were well received. Thank you for filling out the survey and giving the club leadership feedback on how 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.

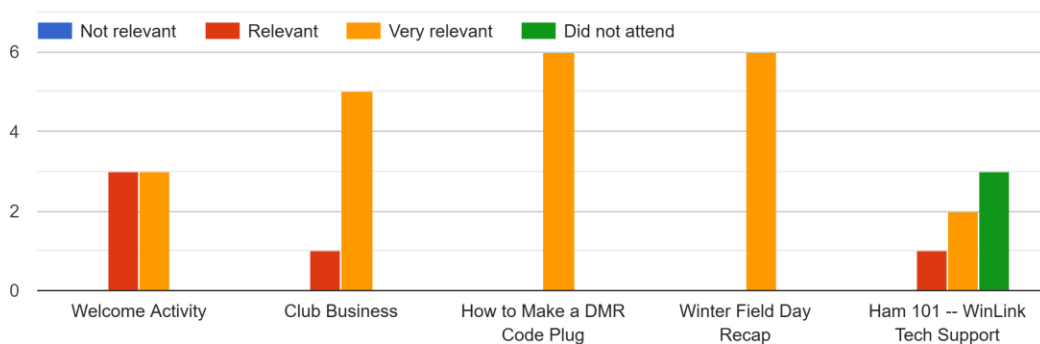
How satisfied were you with the event?
6 responses



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



Which sessions did you find most relevant?



What would you like to see in the Ham 101 timeslot?

3 responses

How to get into and use DMR, talk groups and that type stuff. How to access through repeaters and hot spots.

More DMR info

Dmr

News and Articles for our Membership

President's Corner Submitted by Joe Plunk, NS4E

Let's start off looking back at last month together. Here is a quick picture of the meeting as Adam White (K4SPB) was presenting his session on how to make a DMR code plug. I take my hat off to Adam—he is not afraid to stand up in front of a crowd and demonstrate a topic on live equipment with all of the risk of something going wrong that a live demonstration entails. I love seeing our membership in person at our meetings. The board is working to develop more opportunities for our club members to get together. I would love to hear from you all about ways that you would be interested in getting together.



Speaking of ways to get together, the Ham 101 time slot (for now) is being used as a hands on follow up to the previous month topic. Think of this session as a “Help Desk” for the previous months topic, as a hands on deep dive into the previous months topic. This slot is delivered in a way that allows you to get a deeper understanding by actually performing the tasks on your own gear. The time slot is supported by multiple members of the club and is advertised as bring your radio, cable, and computer and we will help you get it working! I cannot think of a better way or example of Hams helping Hams.

What Ham does not like an opportunity to acquire more radio gear? To that end I do want to call out a great series of events that are upcoming. A local hamfest here in Memphis—FreeFest on April 12th from 9 am to 3 pm. This event is sponsored by MARA (Mid-South Amateur Radio Association) and the door prize ticket fees go to support LeBonheur Children's Hospital and the concession stand revenue goes to support the cost of the venue. Make sure you come to the event hungry and support the MARA club by eating lots of the great concessions so that they are able to keep making FreeFest free.

Another notable event that is coming up that involves radio gear is the ARRL Field Day on June 28 - 29, 2025 please look for some more exciting details on this as we get closer. We are planning on having the event at the Germantown community park behind the Germantown Library. We are also planning on sending out a sign-up sheet to work some specific times and have fun operating radios together. There have been some preliminary meetings with the other clubs that participate with us already and we are making sure to focus on the social time, great antennae and solid contacts.

Let's also focus on the Delta Club's annual Huntsville Bus trip to the Huntsville Hamfest. This is a great time to let someone else do the driving, buy lots of gear with plenty of space to bring it back and to hang out with a large group of Hams. The Huntsville Hamfest is August 16th with the bus leaving in the early morning and getting back to Memphis in the late evening the same day. We stay until the last door prize has been awarded for the day and then load back into the bus and head home. There are always breakfast biscuits and plenty of snacks for the trip. More details will be out soon. Please consider joining us on this trip.

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

73

Joe Plunk, NS4E

Program's Corner
Submitted by Adam White, K4SPB

For the foreseeable future, HAM 101, which meets at 6 pm upstairs in room 202 before the monthly member meeting, will be offering Tech Support on the previous month's presentation. This month, Tech Support will focus on DMR programming. Dan, AA4DF, and I will be there to answer any questions and help you get your radio programmed to work on DARC's latest offering, the DMR repeater that replaced 443.700+ Mhz. At a minimum, you will need your radio and a programming cable. Bringing a laptop with your radio's CPS installed will also help us help you to the best ability, but the laptop is optional. I'll also be available to answer questions on installing Winlink and relevant digital modes.

I recently came across a video from the YouTube channel N-O-D-E highlighting a free resource he released a few years ago called The Pinouts Book. The free PDF is loaded with pinouts for all of the common connectors you may come across while tinkering with different electronics. The book can be downloaded at www.pinouts.org

Video on the book here: <https://youtu.be/qz2P9celU1M>

Lastly, the Solder Smoke podcast is doing a build challenge where listeners can follow along and build a direct conversion receiver. One ham, KA1MUQ, submitted a clip of his build which he completed on the bottom of a copper lined frying pan. That's one way to reuse what you have, I suppose. Video available here: <https://youtu.be/K9s3fJ7JNJ4>

Repeater Trustee's Corner

Submitted by Dan Fleek, AA4DF

This month we did some repeater work at the Brunswick site. I'm bad about not taking group photos and will try to do better. I had Adam K4SPB, Joe NS4E, Mark KO4KQA, and Jim KD4FUU helping me with some work. We swapped out the temporary hotspot with the new T-Mobile hotspot. The hotspot has good signal strength inside the building and it is working well for the 443.7 DMR repeater. Since the DMR repeater and the 146.82 repeater are on opposite ends of the building, we ran 2 ethernet runs from one end to the other so both repeaters can share the internet connection. This is in preparation of adding the Allstar controller to the 146.82.

On the personal end of ham radio, I still like my TYT 380's for DMR. The only thing that is annoying about the 380 is that the speaker mic cover breaks after awhile. I found replacement covers on buytwowayradios.com and found a video on how to take the 380 radio apart. Can't wait until the parts arrive. Buytwowayradios.com also has the 2800ma USB C rechargeable batteries for the 380.

I am looking forward to hamfests coming up. The Freefest is on April 12th. Hope to have some eyeball QSO's there. I am also going to Dayton this year. I've made the trip for about 25 of the last 30 years and always have a good time. If you plan on being there, send me an email aa4df@arrl.net and I'll look for you.

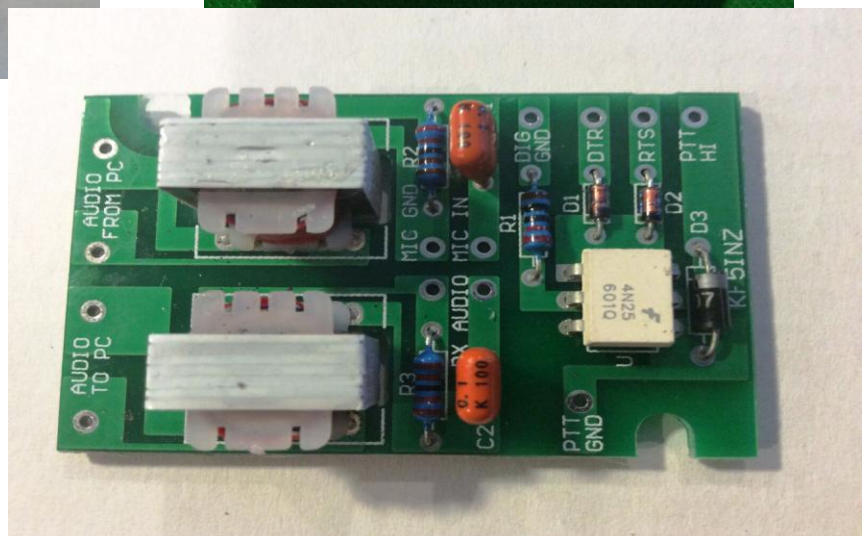
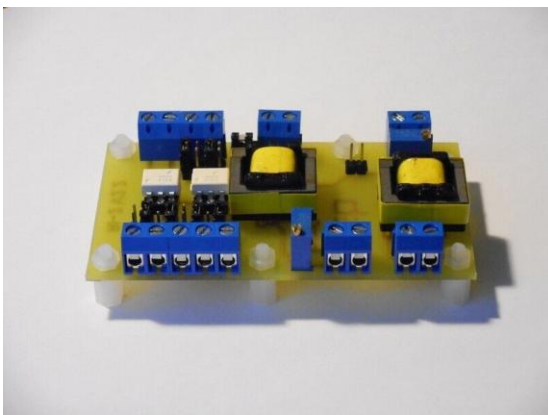
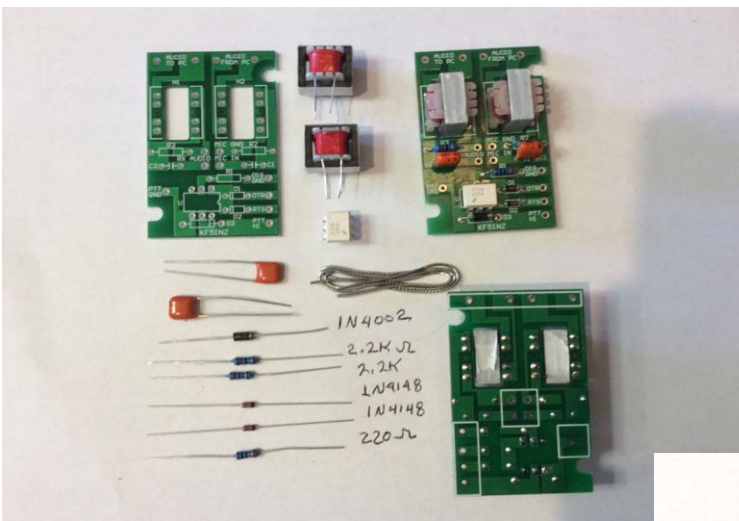
Dan
AA4DF

Packet Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

When running any digital mode on ham radio we have to have a digital interface to go between the computer and the radio. These can range from simple homebrew designs to full built units designed just for our radio with all connectors which is just a plug and play design. These interfaces allow audio tones to go to the computer from the radio and from the radio to the computer. Tune your radio to the proper frequency and run the software on your computer and you are ready to run a digital mode. You can get your interface parts from Ebay. You can also buy a kit for under \$20 with the parts and printed circuit board to mount them on. For a little more money you can get the kit assembled and mounted in a case. You can even get the interface assembled with connector for plug and play with your radio. If you are looking for a digital interface to run digital modes check out the ones on Ebay. Do a search for “ham radio digital interface “.

James Butler
KB4LJV

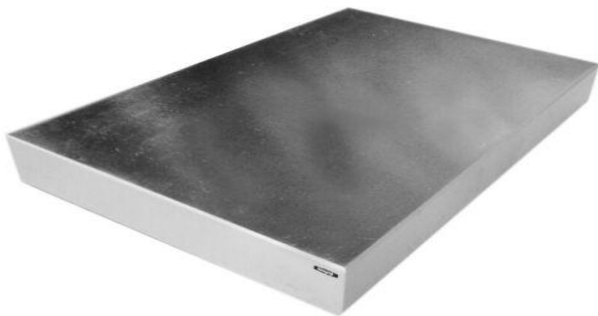


Amateur Hardware Update

Submitted by James Butler, KB4LJV

Many amateurs are now buying small Morse code keys and paddles for portable use. They usually have the new high strength magnets on them to attach to the radio you are using in the field. A good base for your keys to mount on your desk can be hard to find. The good news is we can use a block of steel to use our keys on our desk. The best plate to buy is the professional steel bench block. These are normally used for jewelry work. The steel blocks are available as round, square, or rectangular steel blocks. They come with or without a plastic base on the bottom. These plates are also available in different sizes and thickness. The finish on these blocks are very good with most being chrome plated. The price for these plates are under \$20. If you are looking for a nice steel base for your keys or paddles check these out. Do a search for “STEEL BENCH BLOCK “.

James Butler
KB4LJV



Richard Patrick “Pat” Lane III, W4OQG Obituary



**Richard Patrick
Lane III**

FEB 4, 1943 - MAR 6, 2025

Richard Patrick (Pat) Lane III of Memphis, TN passed away on Thursday, March 6, 2025. He was born in Memphis on February 4, 1943 to Richard Patrick Lane, Jr and Sarah Victoria (Townsend) Lane. He graduated from Central High School and attended Christian Brothers University. Pat served in the US Army from 1967-1968 first in Germany and then in the Vietnam highlands working in communications details rising to the rank of Sergeant. He worked for 50 years as an engineer for WKNO TV and FM serving many of those years their chief engineer and transmitter engineer. He also worked for the University of Memphis Center for Earthquake Research and Information building and installing communications equipment. A lifelong enthusiast of amateur radio, Pat could be found as callsign W4OQG, with Army MARS as AAR4LL, and serving Army MARS as Central Region Emergency Director with callsign AAA9CE.

Pat was a member at the Highland Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Patsy Ann (Lewis) Lane, his son and daughter-in-law John Patrick Lane and Christianne Lane of Hamilton, NJ; daughter Charlotte Ann Lane of Memphis, TN; and two grandchildren, Sarah and Samuel (Sammy) Lane.

Visitation will be at Memorial Park at 10am on Tuesday, March 11, followed by a graveside service at 11am. Memorial gifts may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

DARC Director's Reports

Treasurer's Report Submitted by Jim Martin, KD4FUU

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 Jim Martin, KD4FUU at **treasurer@deltaclub.org** with any questions or concerns regarding application submission and/or payment of annual dues.

LIFEGREEN CHECKING FOR BUSINESS

February 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025

SUMMARY

Beginning Balance	\$16,263.48	Minimum Daily Balance	\$15,970
Deposits & Credits	\$250.00 +	Average Monthly Statement Balance	\$16,212
Withdrawals	\$0.00 -		
Fees	\$0.00 -		
Automatic Transfers	\$0.00 +		
Checks	\$543.33 -		
Ending Balance	\$15,970.15		

DEPOSITS & CREDITS

02/21	Deposit - Thank You	15.00
02/28	Deposit - Thank You	15.00
02/28	Deposit - Thank You	220.00
Total Deposits & Credits		\$250.00

CHECKS

Date	Check No.	Amount	Date	Check No.	Amount
02/18	1638	123.50	02/28	1642 *	419.83
				Total Checks	\$543.33

* Break In Check Number Sequence.

DAILY BALANCE SUMMARY

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
02/18	16,139.98	02/21	16,154.98	02/28	15,970.15

Applications Received - Feb 2025		
(0) New Membership(s) - Pro-Rated Dues		\$0.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Dues Waived		\$0.00
(3) New Membership(s) - Individual		\$60.00
(0) New Membership(s) - Family		\$0.00
(8) Membership Renewal(s) - Individual		\$160.00
(0) Membership Renewal(s) - Family		\$0.00
(0) Donations Received		\$0.00
	Total Dues Received	\$220.00
Other Deposits & Credits		
(0) ARRL Club Commission - New Members (\$15.00)		\$0.00
(3) ARRL Club Commission - Renewals (\$5.00)		\$15.00
ARRL Affiliated Club - Individual Membership Fees		\$0.00
(3) Sales of Delta Club Patches (\$5 each)		\$15.00
	Total Other Deposits	\$30.00
	Total Deposits	\$250.00
Withdrawals & Debits		
None		\$0.00
	Total Withdrawals	\$0.00
Checks		
Check #1638 - Dan Fleek - Reimbursement for purchase of new audio board for Germantown repeater (146.625).		\$123.50
Check #1642 - Joseph Plunk - Reimbursement for purchase of Mobile Citizen hotspot and one year of Internet service for Brunswick repeater site.		\$419.83
	Total Payments	\$543.33

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	\$24.73
SHOW ACCOUNT NUMBER			
*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	\$10.62
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			

DARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Perry Hayes, N4GJ

Delta Club BOD Meeting Minutes - March 4, 2025

Minutes of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting - March 4, 2025

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes N4GJ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, Director of Meetings and Special Events, Scott Adams KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF.

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU.

Guests: None

The Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Board of Directors (BOD) met on March 4, 2025, via a ZOOM video conference call. The President and Secretary were present. President Joe Plunk, NS4E, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

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

Perry Hayes discussed his minutes of the February DARC Membership Meeting, which had been circulated to the BOD via email. Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by President Joe Plunk, NS4E. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, was ill and could not attend the meeting.

President Joe Plunk presented the new and renewal membership applications that were received since the February BOD meeting. Perry Hayes made a motion to accept all of the applications, which was seconded by Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB. The motion passed without opposition.

Joe Plunk presented the Treasurer's Report. There was a discussion about bills that were expected during the month of March. Joe Plunk said that the DARC's CD (with an account number ending in 8503) was renewed and will mature on 10/22/25.

Perry Hayes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Programs Adam White discussed the programs that will be offered at the 6 o'clock hour and at the Membership Meeting on March 11th.

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said that a team worked on the 443.700 DMR repeater over the weekend. The amplifier was installed and is working well. Dan also changed the Brandmeister DMR master server on the repeater.

Dan and his team are still working on the linking for the National Weather Service nets. Plans are to purchase another Raspberry Pi device and an audio card for around \$175. Analog linking to the DMR NWS nets will be available on the 146.82 and 146.625 repeaters.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison announced that he may have found a replacement. There was a discussion about involving this person in the preparation of the March issue of *Sparks*.

Joe Plunk discussed a meeting that he had about Field Day 2025 with Fred Miller KS2X (President of Nashoba Amateur Radio Club) and Rick Kanschats N0KYN (President of MARA). Field Day will be held on June 28-29. The regular location at the Germantown Municipal Park and Pavilion has been reserved for this year's event. The BOD agreed to join forces with Nashoba and MARA again this year.

Joe Plunk discussed Memphis FreeFest, which will be held on April 12th at Bartlett Station Municipal Center - 5868 Stage Road in Bartlett.

Adam White reported on the results of the Programming Survey, which is offered to the DARC membership.

Looking ahead, Joe Plunk said that the Huntsville Hamfest will be held August 16th and 17th. Planning will begin soon for the annual DARC Bus Trip on August 16th. Joe Lowenthal said that he would contact Cline Tours about the price of the bus for this year.

Joe Plunk thanked Joe Lowenthal for the New Ham Letters, repeater lists and other materials he prepares for students and new hams. Joe Plunk also thanked Joe Lowenthal for all that he does for ham radio in the Mid-South.

Joe Plunk asked if any BOD members had additional reports.

President Joe Plunk, Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Secretary Perry Hayes, Director of Programs Adam White, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Director of Publications Mike Harrison and Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek had no additional

reports. Immediate Past President Ty McMahan and Treasurer Jim Martin were absent, and made no further reports.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal said that three students from the Extra Class License Class had passed their exams. Two students will retake the exam at a later date. There are 16 students enrolled in the current Technician Class License Class and 11 attended last night's meeting. The class will not meet on March 10th. Joe said the class was going well.

One of the students in the Technician Class is a principal in the Houston area. She discovered that her office manager was a ham, and they are making plans to form a Ham Radio Club at their school.

Joe Plunk said that there were still three vacancies on the BOD. Volunteers are needed to fill the positions of Public Information Officer (PIO), Club Historian and Club Counsel. Anyone interested should see a BOD member for more information.

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

President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.

The next regular meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 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
February 11, 2025

The February 2025 Delta Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 11, 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 50 members and visitors in attendance.

Present: President Joe Plunk, NS4E, Vice-President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, Treasurer Jim Martin, KD4FUU, Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB.

Absent: Immediate Past President Ty McMahan, KX4MQ.

President Joe Plunk, NS4E, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

Secretary Perry Hayes, N4GJ, called the roll of the Board of Directors (BOD) and declared a quorum.

Billy Freeman, WL4B, made an announcement about Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief's West Tennessee Regional Training, which will be held March 7-8 at Germantown Baptist Church.

Eric Mills, KX4B, made an announcement about the origins of Morse Code.

Rick Tillman, WA4NVM, made an announcement about Memphis FreeFest, to be held on April 12, 2025.

Joe Plunk asked for a motion to accept the Secretary's minutes of the January Membership Meeting and February BOD meeting, as published in *Sparks*. Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made the motion, which was seconded by Randy Redd, KQ4HJH. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Plunk asked the members of the BOD if they had any reports.

Vice President Tyler Henley, KQ4QEV, said he enjoyed hearing activity on DARC's repeaters, and was excited about the new DMR repeater.

Secretary Perry Hayes had no additional report.

Ham Hilliard, W4GMM, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as published in *Sparks*. The motion was seconded by Ned Savage, KA4BLL. The motion passed without opposition.

Director of Programs Adam White, K4SPB, reminded everyone to complete a Program survey.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Scott Adams, KM4PMU, had no additional report.

Director of Publications Mike Harrison, KM4MRW, reminded everyone that he is seeking a replacement.

Director of Training Joe Lowenthal, WA4OVO, said that the Extra Class License Class has concluded, and 2 of the students passed their exams. A Technician Class License Class will meet via ZOOM on Monday nights from February 24th to April 7th (no class on March 10). 14 students are enrolled in the class.

Joe Lowenthal circulated a card for Pat Lane, W4OQG. Joe said everyone was welcome to send correspondence to Pat at his home address (good on QRZ).

Repeater Trustee Dan Fleek, AA4DF, said that the 443.700 DMR repeater is up and running well. Dan plans to hold training sessions on programming DMR HTs. Allstar will be added to the 146.82 repeater, to provide linking during National Weather Service nets. NWS has nets during weather events, and a regularly scheduled net on the first day of each month. The NWS nets are held on Brandmeister DMR talkgroup 314431 (NWS Memphis), available on DMR hotspots and TS1 of the W4BS DMR repeater.

Dan said a team would also be performing upgrades and testing at the Germantown 146.625 repeater site. Linking to NWS weather nets will be available on 146.625.

John Reiners, KN4BVH, is planning a weekly DARC DMR net. More information to follow. The net will meet on Brandmeister DMR talkgroup 314447 (New Memphis Metro), available on DMR hotspots and TS2 of the 443.700 W4BS DMR repeater.

The Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, Mary Jean Hall, KY4FB, is looking for volunteers to serve on the committee. She plans to begin committee meetings next month. Mary Jean's contact information is good on QRZ.

Treasurer Jim Martin, KM4FUU, presented the proposed DARC Budget for 2025.

Ham Hilliard made a motion to accept the proposed budget, which was seconded by Bill Flanigan, KK4VPS. The motion passed unanimously.

Adam White gave a presentation on programming DMR radios, entitled "What the Heck is a Codeplug?"

Tyler Henley gave a presentation about the recent DARC Winter Field Day event.

There being no further business, President Joe Plunk said that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Ham Hilliard made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Paul Broom, KY4MX. The motion passed unanimously. President Joe Plunk adjourned the meeting at 8:34pm.

The next regular membership meeting of the Delta Amateur Radio Club is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 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

0 Technician

0 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 is 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.

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

PREVIOUS CLASSES

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.

Tech Class 2-24 – February 22 – March 23, 2024

A hybrid Technician license class was held on five Thursday nights on February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21 from 6:15-9:30pm and one Saturday March 23rd from 9:00am-1:00PM. The first four classes were via Zoom. The 5th in-person class was a review of the question pool and an opportunity to take the FCC exam. The two in-person classes were at the MPD Appling Farms Precinct. Eleven students and one audit finished the class.

Congratulations to Dan Strahl KQ4PTW for testing early at TARS/Atoka meeting and earning his Technician and General licenses, Congratulations to Kunal Ashok KQ4QFI, Chuck Baker KQ4QFJ, Jason Beaver KQ4QFK, Tyler Henley KQ4TFL, Avery Knowlton KQ4QEZ, Cindy Knowlton KQ4QFM, Steffanie Roland KQ4QFR, Srinivas Sompalli KQ4QGM, and Neil Taylor KQ4QGL. At FreeFest testing Avery upgraded to General and Extra and changed call to KZ4FW. Srinivas also upgraded to General.



Tech Class 2-24 testing



Rick WA4NVM and Richard K4DXF
on JO-97 Satellite demo

The instructors were Paul Roberts KA4X, Park Dodge AI5CY, Paul Broom KY4MX, John Reiners KN4BVH, Perry Hayes N4GJ, Steve Frazier KK4VPT, Carolyn Horne KX4QF and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO.

The sixth in-person class was equipment demonstrations on analog repeater basics, Amateur Packet Reporting System (APRS), satellite operations and possible contact, and basic FM digital concepts of D-STAR, Fusion, DMR and Echolink operations.



Rick KJ4NWQ on APRS demo

John KN4BVH on Digital Basics

The equipment demonstration team was Rick Tillman WA4NVM and Richard Martin K4DXF on satellites, Rick Pellicciotti KJ4NWQ on APRS, John Reiners KN4BVH on FM digital radio basics, and Joe Lowenthal WA4OVO on analog repeater basics and Echolink.

Extra Class 1-24 – January 6 – February 17, 2024

An Extra Class license class is being held on six Saturdays on January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 10 & 17. (The February 3rd date is the Jackson MS hamfest.) There will be five Zoom instructional periods with the sixth one an in-person opportunity to take the FCC exam on the last date. The eight students are Robert KN4OEP, Reggie KJ4FER, Ric KK4SZO, Stacy KJ4MDA, Loy KQ4LPM, Stuart KQ4KIH, Jay KJ5CFY and Jeff KQ4KII.

The instructors are Joe WA4OVO, John KN4BVH, Joe NS4E, David KY4FH, Barry W5CJ, Dave AD4Q, Park AI5CY, Paul KA4X, Carolyn KX4QF and Bobby KD5BS.

The Delta Club ARRL VE team will provide the FCC exam session.



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**Bartlett Station Municipal Center (behind the library)
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Arduino Kit & Book	Chickasaw ARC
Power strip with 6 power poles	Hamsource
20Ah BLF-1220A LiFeP04 Battery w/charger	Delta Club
20Ah BLF-1220A LiFeP04 Battery w/charger	Delta Club

Load in Friday 4-6 pm, Saturday 8-9 am - Load out 3-4 pm
Help is available with load in and load out.

Talk-In 145.21 / 144.61 Repeater – 107.2 Tone
Back-up 147.03 / 147.63 - 107.2 Tone

VE testing 9:00am to 11:00am, Seminars 11:10am to 2:30pm

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For more information email freefest@maraonline.org

Or visit our website <http://maraonline.org/freefest>

Or contact Art Barnett: Memphis.freefest@gmail.com or (901) 619-5573

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. The secondary frequency is on the 443.700 W4BS repeater, which has a +5 MHz offset and 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!

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	444.175	+ (107.2)	9:00p	Sunday
Desoto County EMA	146.910	+ (107.2)	8:30p	Monday
MedMERS Net	146.820	- (107.2)	12:00p	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	Digital – DMR		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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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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