



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams December 2024

President's Message

Greetings everyone!

We are only a couple of days away from our annual Christmas Party. Attendance will be fantastic again this year. We cannot thank you enough for supporting this event each year. Plus, all the support given to the Toys for Tots toy drive each year is tremendous, please don't forget to bring a small, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

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OARC MEETING

No Meeting in December
License Exams ONLY:
December 4th 5:30pm

William Beardall Senior Center
800 South Delaney Avenue,
Orlando, Florida 32801

OARC Board of Directors

President: John Knott, N4JTK
Vice President: Michael Cauley, W4ORL
Treasurer: Ana Groe, KM4JVE
Secretary: Bob Nocero, W4KBW
Directors:
Bob Cumming, W2BZY
Frank Gergits, KC9GNQ
Christy Moore, KN4MDM
Frank Tagliani, KD4EZW
James Deuel, N0XIA
Ed Thralls, NE4H

The Listening Post is the OARC newsletter for OARC members. The LP will be distributed electronically via E-mail (www.oarc.org).

Editor: Ed Thralls NE4H.

Comments, suggestions, and articles are welcome. Send to editors@oarc.org.

Contributing to this edition: John Knott N4JTK, Michael Cauley W4ORL, James Deuel N0XIA, Bob Cumming W2BZY, Rick Peron KM4KQQ

OARC REPEATERS

Call	Freq	Shift	PL
KB4UT	146.760	-600	103.5
K1AA**	147.015	+600	103.5

** Wires-X Gateway

D-Star

K1XC C*	146.820	-600	
K1XC B	443.275	+5MHz	
K1XC A	1275.00	-12 MHz	Voice
K1XC A	1255.00	Simplex	Digital
W4PLB C*	145.160	+600	
W4PLB B	442.300	+5MHz	

* Linked to reflector REF037C

All D-star repeaters are connected
REF037 is sponsored by OARC

President's Message *(Continued from Previous Page)*

So just a couple of quick reminders for the Christmas Party: the doors open at 6pm. We begin serving food at 7pm. The location of the Christmas Party is at the Knights of Columbus, 5727 Cornelia Ave, Orlando FL 32807. There is no assigned seating, you may sit where you like. Water and soda are included and available at the bar. A cash bar (not included) is also available to you for those who would like beer, wine, or a mixed drink.

One person from each table will be asked to pull a piece of paper out of a bowl. That number represents the order in which your table will go in line for food. After each table has been through the line the first time, we will open the line for anyone who would like to go through the food line again. Please only take what you can eat at the party. We want to be sure that everyone has enough food at the party. We will also let you know when the dessert tables are open. Everyone will have ample time to enjoy all the wonderful desserts that are created and brought in.

Afterwards, we will be giving out our annual awards and recognition to some lucky members. Just when you think we are done, it's time to give out the door prizes. Finally, the center pieces are given away. It's always a fun filled night. We look forward to it each year. I'm happy to announce that the grand prize at the Christmas Party will be a **Yaesu FTM-500DR!**

As a reminder, **there is no Meeting this month.** There is a test session at Beardall on Wednesday December 4 at 5:30p. Our **January meeting will return on Wednesday January 8, 2025**, at 7:30p with the test session starting at 5:30p.

We cannot thank you enough for all the support that you have given OARC all these years. On behalf of the OARC Board of Directors, we wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

73,

John Knott, N4JTK

Our Club is Growing – New Members and Birthdays

(By Rick Peron, KM4KQQ, Membership Chairman)

Welcome
to our
New Members

KZ4NG May Marquez/Extra

KQ4YHB Johh P Mazzotta/Tech

Birthdays this Month

AA4CB Chris Bloxsom
K2ZAK Andrew Zacharias
KB9PZF Jill Cole
KC8AZZ Peter Forgacs
KN4NAU Theresa Corral
KO4ULM Charles Norman
KQ4JRZ Mark Horn
N2QGV Art Gwynne



KQ4MFL Keith Schoeppler
N4AFM Armando Mastrapa
WA4QMS Dennis Voegler

AC4Y Dan Knapp
K9FWF Clive Frazier
KC2NEV Jim Byrne
KG4JTR Stuart Lillie
KN4VVG Jim Carten
KO4ZWF Rob Hall
KZ4IE Jamie Eubank
WA2MMY Bonnie-Jo Roux

New ARRL Memberships and ARRL Renewal Memberships

OARC is an ARRL Affiliated Club and can receive a commission for every new ARRL membership and renewal submitted to ARRL Headquarters.



All membership dues are sent to ARRL to be processed, and the club receives a commission payment directly from ARRL. OARC could earn money while promoting the many benefits and programs of ARRL to ensure that amateur radio is protected and continues to be strong.

Family, Blind or 21-and-under discounted memberships are not applicable for any discount.

This may not be combined with any other promotion or special offer.

Pick up an application from Rick Peron, KM4KQQ, at any meeting.

HOW ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN OARC?

Thank you for being a part of the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC). Can you believe that it's been such a short time since you first joined or last renewed your club membership? We hope you've been able to enjoy all the benefits of your OARC membership these past months.

RENEW NOW

If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rick Peron KM4KQQ at Membership@oarc.org to see how we can meet your needs. We'd love to hear your feedback!

Expiring 12/30/2024

First Name Last Name/Call

Kenneth Burstall/WB8PKK

Julio Maldonado/KQ4MGO

Katherine Nettles/KZ4BT

Keith Schoeppler/KQ4MFL

Keith Williams/K1JMW

Matt Roberts/N9GMR

Katey Williams/KO4HWP

Albert DeFilippo/W2APD

Membership is vital for the survival and continued functioning of the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, a nonprofit organization.

Membership in OARC includes:

- A monthly meeting with educational programs/current information about club activities for the amateur radio hobby,
- Camaraderie with others who enjoy the amateur radio hobby,
- A monthly newsletter with current information on a variety of amateur radio topics,
- Voting rights in annual elections of leadership positions within OARC,
- Connectivity through weekly local radio nets and social media.

By renewing your membership, you will help OARC continue to provide you with local amateur radio support you may need as you grow in the hobby.

Membership renewal is simple. Fill out the membership form found near the end of this newsletter and return to the address listed or bring it with you to the next monthly meeting of OARC and drop it off with the Membership Chairperson.

Volunteer Examiner Report

(by Aaron Morrison, AE4KO / Bob Cumming, W2BZY)

The Orlando Amateur Radio Club VE Team congratulates the following people who earned new or upgrades to their amateur radio licenses during the recent session before the OARC meeting:



EXTRA CLASS *

May Marquez: KZ4NG***

Donald Haag: KI5THG

GENERAL CLASS *

Tyler Blankenship: KO4IBI

TECHNICIAN CLASS **

John Mazzota: KQ4YHB

* Congratulate these hams on their upgrades and listen for them in the new bands/frequencies they now have privileges to use.

** Listen for these new hams to "get on the air" once their license is in the database. Be sure to welcome them to a wonderful hobby and a whole new world!

*** Special congratulations to May Marquez, as a new ham, she passed all three exam levels in one session and is a new ham with Extra Class privileges.

The Orlando Amateur Radio Club holds a Ham Radio License Exam Session the first Wednesday of each month just prior to our club meeting. Testing begins at 5:30pm. You can always check out our website at OARC.org for the latest information.

The Volunteer Examiners for this session included:

AE4KO Aaron Morrison

KT3S Den Ardinger

N2KIQ Paul Kronenwetter

N4UMB Joseph Patti

NE4H Edmund Thralls

W2BZY Robert Cumming

Wd4ORM George Markward

WY1E Michael Kooiman

OARC Meetings and Events 2024 - 2025

Important Meeting Information

December 5, Wednesday	NO MEETING, License Exams ONLY 5:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center
December 7, Saturday	Holiday Party Knights of Columbus, 5727 Cornelia Ave, Orlando FL 32807
January 8, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm OARC Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Yaesu Product Announcements By: John Kruk, N9UPC
February 5, Wednesday	NO MEETING, HamCation

March 5, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: HamCation By: Michael Cauley, W4ORL</p>
April 3, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Grounding and Bonding By: Ward Silver, N0AX</p>
May 7, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: TBD</p>
June 4, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Solar Activity: By the Numbers By: Rob Suggs, NN4NT</p>
June 28-29, Saturday - Sunday	<p>Location: TBD Set up on Friday afternoon, June 27th</p>
July 2, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Operating in a Foreign Port By: Jeremy Bouse, KQ4AFY</p>
August 6, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: ASK an ELMER (Q&A Session)</p>
September 3, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Power, Current, Voltage, and Resistance (PIER) Review Method of Circuit Analysis By: Eric Nichols, KL7AJ</p>
October 1, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Remote HF Station Ideas and Building Blocks for New Hams & Remote Operating By: Mike Walker, VA3MW</p>
November 5, Wednesday	<p>License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Building an Off-Grid Remote Ham Radio Site By: Bruce Perens, K6BP</p>
December 6, Saturday	<p>Holiday Party</p>

Local Area Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

Club Name	When	Where	Contact
Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC)	1 st Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm License Testing at 5:30pm	Beardall Senior Center 800 S. Delaney, Orlando, FL	Bob Nocero, W4KBW at info@oarc.org
Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society	1 st Thursday of each month at 7:00pm	Winter Springs Civic Center - 400 North Edgemon Avenue, Winter Springs, FL	Joe Marsh, KQ4AID at LMARS.ARC@gmail.com
Bahia Shriners Amateur Radio Unit	2 nd Wednesday of the month	Perkins Restaurant 215 W. SR 436 Altamonte Springs	Rod Cavin, W4VBK w4vbk@arri.net
Quarter Century Wireless Club (QCWA)	2 nd Thursday of the month	Perkins Restaurant 701 E SR 434, Winter Springs, FL (1 blk east of HRO)	Roberta Cohen, WA2FRW at Wa2frw@aol.com
Bill Church-and-Christy Moore-CERT Team 62	4 th Thursday of the month at 6:00pm	Recreation Hall, 3000 Clarcona Rd., Apopka FL	Christy Moore, KN4MDM (407) 921-9555
Osceola County ARES	Last Monday of the month at 6:00pm	Osceola County EOC, 2586 Partin Settlement Rd, Kissimmee, FL	Kq4afy@osceolacountares.org
Central Florida Repeater Association (CFRA)	Last Wednesday of each month Arrive around 6pm for some food and chat. Meeting starts about 7:00pm	Perkins Restaurant 6425 University Blvd, Winter Park, FL	Bob Nocero, W4KBW at W4kbw@cfl.rr.com
Solavita Radio Club	Last Thursday of the month at 7:00pm	Gator Room, Solivita, 404 Village, Dr, Poinciana, FL	operator@kq4afy.xyz
Radio Scouting WB4SA	Annual meetings, Quarterly events	Camp La Noche, 41940 Boy Scout Rd, Paisley, FL	Ken Lyons, KN4MDJ kn4mdj@gmail.com info@RadioScouting.us

Weekly Radio Networks

Mon @ 19:15	147.285	Seminole VHF Traffic Net - Except – First Monday of the month (147.555 Simplex)
Mon @ 20:00	147.090	Seminole ARES Net – Except – First Monday of the month (146.460 Simplex)
Tues @ 19:00	145.350	Osceola ARES Net
Tues @ 19:30	147.195	Quarter Century Wireless Association
Tues @ 20:00	146.760	Wayne Nelson Trader’s Net
Wed @ 19:00	147.300	Disney Emergency Amateur Radio Service
Wed @ 21:00	432.090	Florida Weak Signal Group
Thur @ 19:00	443.050	Orange County ARES Net
Thur @ 20:30	432.090	Florida Weak Signal Group

Propagation Beacons

([Florida Weak Signals Society – W4FWS](#))

Frequency	Power (Watts)	Antenna	Location
50.066.7 MHz	15	Horizontal Loop	EL98HN (A)
144.277 MHz	20	Horizontal Loop	EL98HN
222.056 MHz	10	Horizontal Loop	EL98HN
432.307 MHz	20	Horizontal Loop	EL98HN
902.400 MHz	10	Egg Beater	EL98HN
1296.000 MHz	25	Egg Beater	EL98HN
2304.050 MHz	12	Egg Beater	EM80MI (B)
3456.075 MHz	6	Alford Slot	EL98HN (C)
3400.240 MHz	4		
5760.120 MHz	8	Wave Guide Slot	EL98HN
10368.015 MHz	3	Wave Guide Slot	EL98HN
24192.035 MHz	0.150	Wave Guide Slot	EL98HN

(A) Off the Air. Most people now use FT8 to indicate band openings
 (B) Off the Air. Moving to Live Oak, FL in mid-Summer 2024
 (C) The FCC reapportioned this band. A new 3400.240 MHz is slated for mid-Summer 2024
 All antennas are horizontally polarized and reasonably omnidirectional.
 Information current as of March 4, 2024.
 For more information, contact the [Florida Weak Signal Society](#).

HAMS IN THE PARK – Seeking Event Hosts

(By Joe Marsh, KQ4AID, Board of Directors - LMARS)

jhmarshfla@gmail.com 407-454-1520

Our last "HAMS in the Park" event was on November 9 at Blue Jacket Park. We had to move it from the Orlando Veteran's Memorial Park due to parking issues. Lesson Learned. It was still a great time, and we had 18 people in total. We had several first-time attendees and some really cool go-boxes. You should have been there.

Even if you don't come out to operate you should stop by and meet the folks and see what they have going on. It was a good time.

Our next event will probably be in February due to Holidays and other activities but watch for an upcoming e-mail. I am working on a few things so we may have a "Hams in the Park" in January.

I do need your help though. "Hams in the Park" has turned out to be a great event. We are gaining visitors every few months and it is growing in popularity. In the past, we have been running this event using strictly LMARS members. When I put "Hams in the Park" together I did it to support OARC, LMARS, and new Hams in the area. Plus, it was a great way for me to learn as a new operator.

So, what am I getting at? I would like to see one or a few of the OARC members step up and join myself and the other LMARS members as event hosts for the "Hams in the Park". What do we do as an event host? Thank you for asking.

As an event host, you:

- pick the location
- show up at 8:00
- bring drinks (sometimes lite snacks)
- welcome those attending
- gather the names and call signs of the folks who join us
- help new Hams when they need it
- share with the public if you get questions
- do a little write-up for the newsletter which helps feed it into the next event

I am looking for about 4-5 people total, who will be event hosts, this includes myself, you (if you join us), and the others already helping. We would be able to take turns being the event host. When we are not needed as a host we can participate in the event, or if we have other plans it won't interfere with the "Hams in the Park" event if we can't make it.

So, reach out to me if you're willing to help. And I hope you have a great Holiday.

As always, this event is open to all. Young or mature, new or experienced, licensed or unlicensed, with or without gear. Come out and join us. We would love to see you.

Watch for upcoming emails for "Hams in the Park".

Have a suggestion for a "HAMs in the Park" location, let us know.

Amateur Radio Activated for Late Season Hurricane

(The ARRL Letter for November 7, 2024)

A rare November hurricane made landfall in western Cuba as a Category 3 storm Wednesday and continued to move slowly toward the northwest Thursday morning. Volunteer ham radio operators were there to provide surface reports to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Hurricane Rafael left Cuba's 10 million residents without power and on Thursday afternoon was a Category 2 storm moving away from Cuba and heading northwest towards the Gulf of Mexico. Initial predictions showed the storm could have been headed for Florida and Louisiana, but all watches and warnings in those areas have been discontinued.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN), the VoIP Hurricane Net, and WX4NHC, the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), were activated until Wednesday night but are now secured and continuing to monitor the storm.

2024 ARRL Field Day Results Published

(The ARRL Letter for November 7, 2024)

Results are published, and the numbers are in. They paint a picture of a very active 2024 ARRL Field Day. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were reported during the 24-hour event. That is up from 2023's 1.25 million contacts. That's likely indicative of the continued rise of Solar Cycle 25 leading up to the event, but more people also participated this year.

Entries were received from all 85 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections, as well as from 27 different countries from outside the US and Canada. "It is encouraging to see a rise in participation year to year," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. "ARRL Field Day is amateur radio's premier event, and the hams turned out for it."

Field Day is whatever you make it. For some participants, it's a contest; for others, it's a social gathering and club activity. Other groups use Field Day to showcase what

amateur radio is all about to the public. Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to introduce youths to amateur radio.

Class A, B, and C scores are included in the 2024 QST results article. The scores for Class D, E and F stations and club aggregate scores are listed in the 2024 line scores on the web, as well as in the digital edition of QST.

Results are available now on the ARRL Field Day website at <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdresults.php> and in the December issue of QST.

(Editor's note: OARC Aggregate Score: 3,218 Category: 3A Commercial)

December is Youth on the Air (YOTA) Month in Amateur Radio

(The ARRL Letter for November 14, 27, 2024)

December is Youth on the Air Month, also known as YOTA Month, and there are plans to celebrate young operators all month long. YOTA Month stations will be on all bands and modes at various times. QSL and award information is at events.ham-yota.com.

Last year, young hams worldwide surpassed their goal of 100,000 QSOs in the month of December with a final tally of 103,788. More information about YOTA Month specifically in the Americas can be found at YouthOnTheAir.org, including a link to all YOTA station spots on DXSummit.com.

Overlapping with YOTA Month is round 3 of the YOTA Contest, which is on December 30, 2024, from 1000 to 2159 UTC.

ARRL Delegates Attend IARU Region 3 Conference

(The ARRL Letter for November 14, 2024)

The [19th International Amateur Radio Union \(IARU\) Region 3 Conference](#) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, November 4 – 8, 2024. [ARRL](#)® The National Association for Amateur Radio® is a Region 3-member society and IARU International Secretariat and was represented by ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD.

While most of the United States is in IARU Region 2, ARRL is also a member society of Region 3, which includes portions of Asia and the Pacific, where ARRL represents the interests of radio amateurs in the US Pacific territories of Guam, the Commonwealth

of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, as well as amateur radio interests for the US Minor Outlying Islands.

Sixteen IARU R3 Member Societies participated in the conference. The agenda included a range of items of note to radio amateurs regionally and globally.

One of the major changes to take place at the conference was to revise the way the officers and the Executive Committee (EC) of the region are chosen. In the past, the conference elected 6 directors, and the 6 directors chose a chairman to lead the Executive Committee for the three years between each triennial conference. Under the newly adopted procedure, the conference elects a President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer along with 5 additional members of the Executive Committee. The new procedure is much like the election process in Regions 1 and 2. The Secretary/Treasurer is a member of the EC but without the right to vote. The newly elected officers of the region are President Wisnu Widjaja, YBØAZ; Vice President Mohammad Bin Bernawi, 9M2IR, and Secretary/Treasurer Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP.

The conference dealt with a number of routine matters, including reports from all of its coordinators and volunteers. Notably, the conference harmonized the CW portion of the 40-meter band plan with the other regions by making 7000 - 7040 kHz CW only.

In Roderick's report to the conference, he presented information about amateur radio advocacy accomplished by ARRL in recent years. Of note was the [2023 decision](#) by the FCC to amend the US Amateur Radio Service rules to replace the baud rate limit on the amateur HF bands with a 2.8-kHz bandwidth limit, consistent with ARRL's request to permit greater flexibility in data communications. The decision supports the vital role of radio amateurs, especially with respect to providing emergency response communications during natural disasters and other emergencies.

Roderick also highlighted the success ARRL has seen in growing participation in the ARRL International DX Contest and Logbook of The World®.

Roderick presented a recognition award plaque to the host member society, the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand.

The conference voted to meet next in Bali, Indonesia, in 2027 for the 20th Triennial Region 3 Conference.



ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, presenting his report at the IARU Region 3 Conference, held November 4 – 8, 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. [IARU Secretary Joel Harrison, W5ZN, photo]



ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, presents a recognition award plaque to the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand in appreciation for hosting the IARU Region 3 Conference 2024. [ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, photo]



The plaque presented by ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, to the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand in appreciation for hosting the IARU Region 3 Conference 2024.

Hurricane Milton: Lessons Learned by First-Time ARES Responder

(By Gary Konecky, KQ4STK – The ARES Letter for November 20, 2024)

Hurricane Milton was the situation for my first ARES deployment. It was educational. I learned, first, that "disasters are local." It does not matter what is happening in the next county over: where you are is what you will have to deal with. Secondly, the response by the state was a textbook example of how to do things right: hurricane preparedness and response started nearly a week before the arrival of the storm. Evacuation orders were given days before the onset of hurricane conditions. Recovery resources were mobilized days before landfall.

I live in central Florida, which was hard hit by Milton. In mere days, Duke Energy had restored power here. Public works cleared roads of fallen trees and other debris in mere hours in contrast with New Jersey's efforts after Hurricane Sandy, when the same task took the better part of a week.

That said, no prep nor response is flawless. For at least a week before Milton, meteorologists and hurricane forecasters were predicting a severe hurricane. People spent days stocking up on food and filling their cars with gasoline. The result was that even before Hurricane Milton made landfall, gas stations were out of gas. This situation continued for several days after the passage of the hurricane. Lesson

learned: if you live in an area facing an impending disaster, do not let your vehicle fall below half a tank.

My plan was to shelter in place. I live in a solid building on relatively high ground. I procured an ample supply of items needed: a solar generator, flashlights, candles, battery-powered fans with solar panels, camp stove, camp stove fuel, canned goods, and water. I charged my batteries for my radios, testing them on local nets.

Deployment

The night before landfall, I was asked to deploy with ARES, which works with the county's EOC – it runs a top-notch operation and is well equipped and staffed. It is responsible for administering the disaster response plan. I learned that teamwork and effective communication with others are critically important.

I was deployed to a special needs shelter that cared for evacuees with serious medical issues. The County Department of Health (DOH) deployed a sizable, excellent professional staff to the shelter. Their care was exemplary. The shelter was in a school. School cafeteria workers fed residents. The custodial staff kept the shelter clean. If a shelter resident had a dietary restriction, however, he/she needed to bring their own food. For sleeping accommodations, the shelter staff furnished cots; if you wanted a sleeping pad, sheets, pillows, or blankets, you had to bring your own. Under federal law, schools are gun free zones. Therefore, I was glad to see that the sheriff's department officers were deployed to this shelter for law enforcement.

I was not going to leave my beloved dog at home, and I took her along to the shelter. She stayed in my car while I set up the radio station. When I took her out of the car, I had to deal with Animal Control, which treated us poorly. Even when the shelter manager was willing to work with me on this, Animal Control refused.

There were multiple government agencies (school, health department, sheriff's department, EOC, animal control) plus ARES personnel all involved at the shelter. This is where the weak spot is: These agencies had other responsibilities too, not just disaster relief to cope with. So, multi-agency coordination is crucial but was lacking at this shelter. The shelter may or may not be under the jurisdiction of the EOC, but is effectively staffed by DOH, school personnel and others. DOH's disaster response was flawless but was not coordinated well with the EOC. The EOC and ARES thought I was to report to the shelter manager, an employee of the school district. DOH thought their field manager was the shelter manager. I got caught in the middle. It took an hour of phone calls from me to ARES coordinators, and from ARES to the powers that be to iron this problem out.

The school district administrators had not allowed a shelter inspection for a couple of years, and nothing pointed out in the last inspection had been addressed. I had arrived at the shelter with the EOC-supplied radio (my thanks to the county for supplying ARES with radios), a rollup antenna, lots of coax, and two toolboxes filled

with miscellaneous tools and supplies. I had everything I needed but the one thing that an earlier shelter inspection would have told me I needed was several feet of PVC pipe. A field inspection would have told me that the building is basically nothing but metal, and hence I would need a PVC pipe so that I could attach my antenna to a fence outside, away from the building, and thereby get the antenna to work. Fortunately, when I was deployed, Tony McGhee, KT4WM, who had been deployed at this school previously, had been assigned as my person to call in case of issues. Tony came to the rescue, bringing PVC pipe and more supplies. The lesson is, when possible, *ARES volunteers should be deployed in pairs. If this is not possible, each person deployed should have a nearby back-up person assigned to them to assist with equipment, supplies, and experience to help out if necessary.*

As the schools do not let us make needed site inspections, I think it would be a good idea if at the end of a deployment, ARES volunteers prepared a brief document so that the next ARES volunteer would have a better idea of what they may be getting into. The following would be an example for the school where I was deployed:

"Off the cafeteria/multi-purpose room is a storage room used by cafeteria workers to store disposable items such as paper cups, plates, trays, etc. The radio should be set up in that storage room. The feedline should be run through the double-doors to the right of that room. Outside those doors is a courtyard with a chain-link fence. A non-conductive pole (PVC pipe or a 2"x4") can be attached to the fence and an antenna mounted on the pole. The doors tend to pinch coax, and the doors also have sharp edges. Therefore, something needs to be wrapped around the feedline to protect it from being crimped, and to protect it from being cut."

Additionally, the school has a back-up generator. Do not assume it will work and even if it works, it may not supply power to the part of the school where your station is. Therefore, plan accordingly. That said, there is a limitation to this as people in the school can move things, resulting in this information being out of date. Something is often better than nothing, I suppose.

The next big lesson, and this is a lesson for everybody, not just ARES volunteers: Disasters happen in places that you don't think would happen. Hurricane Helene destroyed a part of the country that is not prone to hurricane destruction. The result was unimaginable devastation, a very slow government response, and no significant aid for the devastated remote areas, especially in the early days of the disaster. It was citizens, not the government, who provided the first significant aid and comfort to the victims in that area. I am proud of the ham radio operators who stepped into this breach and did all they could to help.

Where I live, I have high praise for the government response. If you are going to get hit by a hurricane, the best place to be is in Florida. The response in Florida to Milton was textbook perfect (except for the lack of coordination between agencies at the local level). That said, however, the lesson I have learned is that you are largely on

your own in a disaster, post-onset. Ham radio is the only communication that can be counted on in an emergency. Cell phones fail. The internet goes down.

If a hurricane doesn't get you, an earthquake might. If an earthquake doesn't get you, a flood might. If the flood doesn't get you, a fire might, and so on. Therefore, the lesson that Milton taught me was that you, and only you, can be counted on in a disaster. Help may be delayed, maybe by hours, maybe by days, maybe by weeks. I say this because even before Milton made landfall, the winds were so powerful that ambulance service had to be suspended. Hours after Milton made landfall, the calls for assistance came in hard and fast: Person after person, calling because a tree fell on their house, or their house was flooding. Those calls went unanswered because the roads were impassable due to flooding or debris. That is why I say you need to work on the assumption that you will be on your own and no help is coming.

The Go-Bag

If you are deployed, you are going to your assignment and you are not leaving your assigned location for the duration. Therefore, not only do you need your properly stocked go-bag, but you also need to secure your property. You also need to safeguard important legal documents, as your home could be destroyed. Also, secure your antennas.

The little things, some seemingly of no consequence, matter. When I arrived at the shelter, the parking lot was nearly full. In addition, emergency services vehicles were parked in a no parking zone. As I had equipment to unload, I asked the shelter manager where I should park, and I was told to park with the emergency service vehicles that were parked in the no parking zone. The problem is that if people see a civilian vehicle parked there, they may think they can park there, and that would have caused a problem at this shelter. Fortunately, a friend had given me ARES logo magnetic placards that I stuck on my car. I also wore an ARES shirt that had the bold, large words "AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS."

My thanks to Doug Lynch, W4DBL, for checking on everyone in ARES for needs and well-being checks. Not only are we responsible to those we are helping, but we are also responsible for our fellow team members. Thanks also to Jim Jaeger, KO4KUS, for asking me to deploy, and troubleshooting any issues.

Conclusion

I am a new ham and survived my first ARES deployment. Having had a very positive experience, I will be volunteering again. You don't have to be a veteran, experienced ham to help when disaster strikes. Therefore, I encourage everyone (experienced hams and new hams alike) to get involved with ARES.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Communication and coordination (including a clear chain of command) among all the agencies involved in a disaster is crucial.
- Try to get as much information about where you are going as possible. If possible, site inspections should be done before disaster strikes.
- Have a go-bag. Include in your go-bag things you want, as well as what you need, as the shelter may not have them.
- If you have a pet, be prepared to deal with animal control.
- ARES volunteers should bring things that they don't think they will need (e.g., PVC pipe).
- Secure your property before you deploy or evacuate.
- Seemingly inconsequential things (e.g., car magnetic signage and t-shirts) matter.

5th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day December 7, 2024

(The ARRL Letter for November 21, 2024)

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary. SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL® to commemorate the contributions of SKYWARN volunteers. Using amateur radio and other means of communication, SKYWARN spotters provide real time ground truth to NWS offices. The ham-volunteers can also provide vital communications between NWS and local emergency management officials when other means go down.



In a video posted to the SRD web page, National Weather Service Director Ken Graham, WX4KEG, said the information ham radio operators and other SKYWARN volunteers provide is critical. "I, along with the entire National Weather Service, want to acknowledge and thank you for your invaluable service to the communities we serve."

There will be a SRD special event from 0000 – 2359 UTC on the day. The objective is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands.

ARRL will be on the air during the event from the ARRL Radio Laboratory station, W1HQ, using the call sign WX1AW. ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, said SRD is a great opportunity to welcome non-ham SKYWARN

volunteers to explore amateur radio. "Storm spotting was my original draw into ham radio. I watched a large tornado tear up my community on May 3, 1999, and was listening via my mom's 2-meter mobile radio to spotter reports being relayed to the NWS Norman, Oklahoma, office. I knew I wanted to be a part of that and within months I was licensed. Amateur radio was my path into that community service and has been the hobby of a lifetime ever since," she said.

ARRL has a web page to help those interested with getting licensed. Find details at www.arrl.org/getting-licensed.

Spotters are encouraged to register for SRD at www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition. There will be participation certificates available after the event.

New Video Promoting YouTube Telethon to Benefit Teachers Institute

(The ARRL Letter for November 21, 2024)

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI) is a tremendously successful advocacy for inspiring youth, and it is growing significantly. The program is entirely donor-funded, and that effort is getting a huge shot in the arm. A YouTube telethon to raise money for the program will be held on Saturday, November 30, 2024, on the Ham Radio Crash Course channel. ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, joined forces in a new video to promote the telethon. See the video by clicking on the image below or by [clicking here](#).

Goodgame and Beal will be joined on the telethon by teachers who have found great success in incorporating amateur radio and wireless technology into their learning environment after graduating TI. A who's who of ham radio personalities are set to be on the marathon stream, including ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA.

There's a chance to make a real impact. "A group of donors has inspired us with a challenge gift," said Beal. If the telethon raises \$20,000, there will be an additional \$20,000 kicked in by the donors.

Ed Menasian, N8LPQ, Receives 2024 ARRL Technical Service Award

(The ARRL Letter for November 7, 2024)

Ed Menasian, N8LPQ, of Toledo, Ohio, is the recipient of the 2024 ARRL Technical Service Award. He was presented the award plaque and motion certificate by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, at a ceremony held November 23 at the Toledo Emergency Management Agency.

The ARRL Technical Service Award is given annually to one or more licensed radio amateurs whose service to the amateur community and/or society at large is of the most exemplary nature within the framework of amateur radio technical activities.

The award motion certificate presented to Menasian noted he exemplifies the spirit of the award through creating ways to learn and share technical information, including his weekly breakfast meetings and his licensing classes that train both prospective and current hams.

"It was a great day for me," said Director Yonally. "A room full of his students each got up and did a short testimonial on how Ed has helped them in not only getting licensed, but also getting on the air, and how he encourages them to upgrade as well. What a day it was." Yonally added, " This is what being a member of ARRL is all about."

Menasian has been licensed since 1981, holds a General Class license and has been an ARRL member for 13 years.



Ed Menasian, N8LPQ, with his ARRL Technical Service Award plaque and motion certificate.

How to Let Kids Talk with Santa Over Ham Radio This Holiday Season

(The ARRL Letter for November 27, 2024)

Santa Claus will be on the amateur radio airwaves again this year.

The 3.916 Santa Net will be on the air every night at 7:00 PM CST from November 29 through December 24. Reserve a spot with Santa by making a pre-net check in. You can check in each night starting at 6:30 PM CST online at www.CQSanta.com.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be on the air, together, thanks to special arrangements with the [Cowley County Amateur Radio Club](#) in Kansas. They will be on the air on the 147.000 repeater and the Sunflower Net system, between 10 AM and noon CST on November 30 and beginning at 10 AM until band conditions change on December 14 and 21. In addition to the local repeater, the [Sunflower Net](#) offers connection options to Allstar, DMR, Dstar, Echolink, Fusion, Hamshack Hotline, M17, and P25. The club is also setting up a radio link at the local library to talk to Santa. A special effort is being made to give children who are hospitalized or otherwise unable to visit personally an opportunity to reach out to Santa.



Also, for the 4th year, Santa has sent Elf Chucky and his team of amateur radio operators to northern Colorado, to help make sure children of all ages can talk to Santa on station NØP from the North Pole. Thanks to the [Longmont Amateur Radio Club](#) and the [Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club](#), children can get into the holiday spirit by talking to Santa on the radio. Both are ARRL Affiliated Clubs. Get the details on that operation at <https://w0eno.org/santa>.

Minnesota School Participates in SCR

(The ARRL Club News for November 27, 2024 --- Thanks to Dwight Moore, KD0OIX)

Members of the Fergus Falls Lake Region Amateur Radio Club (FFLRARC), K0QIK, in Minnesota supported School Club Roundup (SCR) this fall by setting up a radio station at Kennedy Secondary School in Fergus Falls. The school's IT specialist, Jesse Thorstad, KMOJPR, talked with the Community Education Director and got permission to set up a station in the Roosevelt Education Center, which houses several after-school clubs and events. Jesse sent emails to students and staff letting them know about the event, and several students replied that they were interested.

Jesse and I set up a station by running the coax through a window to a vertical antenna that was set up in a secluded spot on the lawn near the building where we could keep an eye on it. Each day of the event, the station was set up and taken down to accommodate other activities in the center. The students operated with FFLRARC's call sign, KOQIK.

It was decided that the station would be open from 15:30 (just after school) until 18:00 local time. During the week, four students came by the station and got on the air. Jesse and I coached students with what to say when calling CQ and had produced a script that helped prompt them through a QSO. We used *N1MM Logger+*, so the students could see their progress throughout the week.

If more than one student was at the station, they would take turns making contacts — one student would call CQ until they made a contact and then pass the microphone to the next student. They became quite proficient at quickly passing the microphone, and no one was left sitting while another student did the talking.

Several other members of FFLRARC stopped by to observe or provide advice and encouragement, and they were impressed by what they saw. The students ended the week with nearly 10 hours of time on the air, and they made 238 contacts with 44 states, four provinces, and five DX stations. The students were very excited with their participation and are looking forward to doing this again in February 2025. We're hoping that SCR will be the spark that gets students interested in forming a student-run club at Kennedy Secondary School.

Amateur Radio in the News (The ARRL Letter for November 7, 14, 21, 27, 2024)

ARRL Public Information Officers, Coordinators, and many other member-volunteers help keep amateur radio and ARRL [in the news](#).

["Area Scouts join amateur radio club for Jamboree-on-the-Air"](#) / The Kerrville Daily Times (Texas) October 28, 2024 -- *The Hill Country Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["How a Wayne principal saved an astronaut talk for students after school shut down"](#) / Northjersey.com (New Jersey) October 29, 2024 -- Heart of Amateur Radio Club.

["Reading Scouts unite with amateur radio club for event"](#) / Reading Chronicle (United Kingdom) October 20, 2024 -- Reading and District Amateur Radio Club.

["Opportunity of a lifetime: Satellite Beach students speak with astronaut onboard ISS"](#) / Florida Today (Florida) October 31, 2024 -- Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society.

["Ham radio system donated and installed at the fire hall"](#) / Petersburg Pilot (Alaska) October 31, 2024 -- Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®).

["How amateur radio operators play a critical role in emergency communication"](#) / KOAA Colorado November 8, 2024 -- Amateur Radio operators in Colorado Springs help during early winter storm.

["Deep Space Exploration Members Competing in Ham Radio Competition at Haswell Station"](#) KIOWA County Independent (Colorado) November 12, 2024 -- The Deep Space Exploration Society.

["Ham Radio: An unsung lifeline for Springfield in times of crisis"](#) / Springfield Daily Citizen (Missouri) November 14, 2024 -- The Nixa Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

["Radio club names ham of the year"](#) / Times Observer (Pennsylvania) November 14, 2024 -- The Chautauqua County Amateur FM Association.

["Middle School Students Get On The Air"](#) / [epnews.com](#) (Colorado) November 17, 2024 -- *The Estes Valley Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Local Radio Club Sharpens Their Skills During 'Fox Hunt'"](#) / [jerseyshoreonline.com](#) (New Jersey) November 20, 2024 -- The Holiday City Amateur Radio Club.

["The BEARS of Manchester are radio ready for the Road Race"](#) / Fox61 (Connecticut) November 22, 2024 -- The Better Emergency Amateur Radio Service.

["Ham radio workshop engages people of all backgrounds"](#) / Idaho Mountain Express (Idaho) November 22, 2024 -- The Wood River Amateur Radio Club.

Swap/Shop/Sell/Trade in *The Listening Post*

Ed Thralls/NE4H, ethralls@oarc.org

8512 Clematis Ln, Orlando, FL 32819

Cell Phone: (407) 913-5717 has the following item(s) for sale:

Item # 1: A bundle consisting of Kenwood TS-50S (recently recapped and realigned), Kenwood AT-300 Automatic Antenna Tuner, and Kenwood SP-41 mobile speaker. Asking \$450.00

Mike Acevedo, W1SRR, w1srradio@gmail.com

3041 Sea Venture St, Orlando, FL 32827

Item #1: Yaesu FT-891 Asking price: \$520 - In great condition, no box

Item #2: ICOM ID-5100 Asking price: \$420 - in great condition, comes with box and all stock items

Item #3: Kenwood TM-D710GA Asking price: \$625 - in great condition, comes with box and all stock items

Item #4: ICOM IC-7100 Asking price: \$1000 - in great condition, comes with box and all stock items

Item #5: ICOM ID-50 Asking price: \$380 - in great condition, comes with box and all stock items plus drop in charger

Item #6: LDG AT600ProII Asking price: \$380 - in great condition, comes with Icom and Yaesu control cables

Item #7: GAP Titan HF Antenna Asking price: \$400 - In great condition

Item #8: Zero5 43' HF antenna Asking price: \$500 - in great condition, painted grey/black

All items can be picked up at my QTH and tried out (except the antennas, unless you want to spend the day putting them together ;))

It is a new year and there is a new procedure for listing "Swap/Shop/Sell/Trade" items in The Listening Post.

Send your items to be posted to James Deuel, N0XIA (jdeuel@oarc.org) before the 20th of the month. All lists received after the 20th of the month may be held over until the following month. The items will appear in The Listening Post newsletter around the first of each month and will continue to be posted for three months. To make it easy, send listings in this format:

Name, Callsign, Contact information (phone number and/or e-mail address)

Item #1: (Description)

Asking price: \$

additional comments

Item #2: (Description)

Asking price: \$

additional comments

Or

Looking for (description) and willing to pay up to \$

EXAMPLE:

Ima Ham, WX4XYZ, Ham@gmail.com

Item#1: Looking for hand microphone for Kenwood TS-520 transceiver

Willing to pay up to \$25, including shipping

Remember - KB4UT, Wayne Nelson's Trader Net held every Tuesday night at 8:00 PM, on the KB4UT 146.760 repeater.

If you don't hear what you want on the net, check The Listening Post.

The Fine Print: Listings must be of a non-commercial nature. Pictures of the items should not be included in the email listing but the member offering the items might have them available for anyone who may be interested. OARC will not be responsible for any claims that are made in the postings and reserves the right to reject a submitted item if the item is deemed to be inappropriate.





OARC Membership Application

Make checks payable to:
Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Mail to:
Orlando Amateur Radio Club
4046 N Goldenrod Rd, Suite 156
Winter Park, FL 32792

To have your membership card mailed to you, please include a SASE with your check.

Date: ___/___/20___ [] Regular Member [] Family Member [] Associate Member
[] New Membership [] Renewal [] CMP

Name: _____ Call _____ Class _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address (print) _____

(Home) Phone: _____ (Cell) Phone _____ Birth Month _____

Rates: Regular [] 1 year \$15.00 [] 3 years \$40.00 [] 6 years \$75.00

Rates: Family [] 1 year \$5.00 per family member Husband, Wife or Child under 18

Rates: Associate [] 1 year \$15.00 Dues Total: _____

All Membership(s) will expire ONE, THREE or SIX year(s) from date paid.

Other Club Affiliations: _____

Are you an ARRL Member: [] Yes [] No

Name Badges: White letters on Black background with Gold embossed OARC logo.

[] Regular 3" x 1.5" @ \$10.00 each

Name: _____ Call _____

All badges are to be picked up at the General meeting or add \$4.00 for shipping & handling.

Shipping & Handling: [] Yes [] No

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