



# The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams February 2025

## President's Message

## It's HamCation Time!!!!

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### OARC MEETING

**No Meeting or License Exams this month due to HamCation**

**William Beardall Senior Center**

800 South Delaney Avenue,  
Orlando, Florida 32801

License Exams: 5:30pm

For information & Updates

See [www.oarc.org](http://www.oarc.org)

### 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](http://www.oarc.org)).

Editor: Ed Thralls NE4H.

Comments, suggestions, and articles are welcome. Send to [editors@oarc.org](mailto: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

# Warm Up at 2025 Orlando HamCation®, February 7 – 9

(The ARRL Letter for January 30, 2025)

Amateur radio operators from across the country, and even from around the world, flock to Florida in February for the annual [Orlando HamCation®](#) — one of the largest and most anticipated hamfests in the country.



HamCation includes all the popular mainstays of a full-featured convention, including exhibits and vendors, swaps, tailgate, and food. A full slate of forums will cover emergency communications, outreach to younger audiences (teens and college students), and high-tech topics like software-defined radio (SDR), remote operating, antenna design, and the fascinating world of pico balloons and tiny transmitters.

This year's HamCation will also host the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. This highlights the region's active amateur radio community and member-volunteers from Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. ARRL representatives, including ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB, and Vice Director Andy Milluzzi, KK4LWR, will be in attendance, along with First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and CEO David Minster, NA2AA. It's a great opportunity to engage with some of the key voices in the world of amateur radio, and to find out ways you can volunteer and extend your support for ARRL.

For those eager to get hands-on experience, attendees will be able to operate special event station W1AW/4 throughout HamCation (be sure to carry a copy of your amateur radio license). There will also be satellite operating demonstrations, organized by ARRL members Sloan Davis, N3UPS, and Tom Gaines, KB5FHK.

A helpful addition for navigating the sprawling event is the [ARRL Events app](#), which is free to download for both Apple and Android devices. The app will help you find and schedule forums, track prize drawings, and locate all the vendors. It's a great way to make sure you don't miss any of the action.



Visit your app store to download the app (search "ARRL Events") or via the following link: [www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl](http://www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl) (or use the [web version](#)).

Orlando HamCation is February 7 – 9, 2025, at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park in Orlando, Florida. More details on the web at [www.hamcation.com](http://www.hamcation.com).

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## Orlando HamCation® to Feature Emcomm-Rich Forums and Programs

(The ARES Letter for January 15, 2025)

The venerable Orlando (Florida) *HamCation* will host the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention on February 7-9, 2025. The schedule of forums and programs devoted to state-of-the-art emergency communications topics is most impressive this year:

- Disaster Response Communications & Auxcomm Florida (Roger Lord and David Byrum, KA4EBX, presenters)
- SHARES, What is it? Why Should I Care? (Doug Lynch, W4DBL)
- Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) Antenna for EmComm (Gary Spangneberg, KF4GGK)
- Army and Air Force MARS: Joint Mission to Support the Troops (Pat Johnson, Julio Schroedel, KJ4AVE)
- SARNET (Statewide Amateur Radio Network) (Randy Pierce, AG4UU, and Joe Poerschke, WB4HIS)

An AUXCOMM Class will be conducted in Orlando, Florida, February 3-5, 2025, prior to the Orlando HamCation® (see above). [Information and signup](#).

[HamCation](#) goers will also have ample opportunities to ask questions of, and render opinions with emcomm luminaries (Section Managers, Section Emergency Coordinators, ARRL HQ staff and others at the ARRL and ARES forums). See you in Orlando!

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## Our Club is Growing – New Members and Birthdays

(By Rick Peron, KM4KQQ, Membership Chairman)

Welcome  
to our  
New Members

KQ4VWE Keagan Bowman/Tech

KQ4VWF Jason Penrod/Tech

## Birthdays this Month

AB4DS Earle Sanborn  
K8MXY J. Doug Braithwaite  
KB2AS Karl Sutherland  
KD2LCV Paul Russo  
KE4MSM Wojciech Kossowski  
KN4LSR Michael Sims  
KO4WJN Mario Tello  
KQ4NOF Pete McCauley  
KV4WG William Warner  
W1NV Robert Bartucco  
W9TAX David Corral



KQ4HBK Tor Erik Isaksen  
KQ4POK Gonzalo Rosa  
N2JRE Jeffery Reyes  
W1SRR Mike Acevedo

K4TEL Thomas Long  
K9LAZ Laszlo Patassy  
KB2CUX Jim Robarr  
KD9UKC Edward Caraballo  
KK4OSC P. Sandy Allison  
KO4FEK Steve Thomas  
KQ4KHN John Emmons  
KQ4VDJ Rick Vallier  
N9GMR Matt Roberts  
W4QKP Dick DiVittorio  
WQ4M Donna Eakin

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:Membership@oarc.org) to see how we can meet your needs. We'd love to hear your feedback!

<b>Expiring 02/28/2025</b>	<b>Expiring 03/30/2025</b>	<b>Expiring 03/30/2025</b>
<b>First Name Last Name/Call</b>	<b>First Name Last Name/Call</b>	<b>First Name Last Name/Call</b>
Bonnie-Jo Roux/WA2MMY	Don Bolton/KQ4POI	William Church/KN4LSU
Rafael Almonte/WP4B	Mark Bullington/KQ4POJ	Sarah Day/KN4JYI
Pedro Almonte/	Greg Coffman/FAMILY	John Egolf/KD4NKU
Chris Bloxsom/AA4CB	Joshua Keeler/KO4MMM	Vladimir Filippov/K10PS
Fernando Caraballo/KO4BBK	John Keeler/N8JOK	Fred Fitte/NF2F
Edward Caraballo/KD9UKC	Wojciech Kossowski/KE4MSM	Frank Gergits/KC9GNQ
Rodney Cavin/W4VBK	Gonzalo Rosa/KQ4POK	Ana Groe/KM4JVE
Mark Eckert/KQ4PBM		Dean Groe/N9DCD
Bob Grosso/KO4MLX		Gilbert Harris/WA2MYD
Alejandro Malave-		Joe Marsh/KQ4AID
Barrozzi/KN4YRX		Richard Mastrocola/KE2DBQ
Alan Marote/WA1LBG		Christy Moore/KN4MDM
Rob Matheison/K4GPM		Bob Nocero/W4KBW
Joe Millard/K4JM		Rick Peron/KM4KQQ
Melissa Perez/KB4MEL		Ray Renfro/KQ4QQT
Laura Petrie/WT1K		Felix Serrano/KQ4QVF
Michael Platzler/KJ4ROC		Nicolas Serrano/KQ4QVC
Henry Richter/		Frank Tagliani/KD4EZW
Earle Sanborn/AB4DS		Sean Thompson/N2APE
Robert Wall/W4WDI		Edmund Thralls/NE4H
		Mike Urban/KD4PTT

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.

# Silent Key – Jim Logie N4VH

(By John Knott, N4JTK)



I am once again saddened to announce that Past OARC Treasurer, Past HamCation Finance Chairman and OARC Life Member, Jim Logie N4VH became a Silent Key, on January 27, 2025.

When I became a Director for OARC back in 2011, Jim was the Treasurer and HamCation Finance Chair. Jim remained on the board as the HamCation Finance Chair until around 2014 or 2015. I really enjoyed working with Jim and he served the club well. I'm sure I have a few Jim stories to share, as probably many of you that knew Jim.



I also posted the announcement on the club's Facebook page. Feel free to go and post any memories you have of Jim.

Please keep his wife Robin, his daughter Kim, and the entire Logie family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

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## 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

Benjamin K. Gayer: KZ4PN\*

### GENERAL CLASS

### TECHNICIAN CLASS \*\*

Lovey B. Haley: KR4AIT

Vitor J. Mira: KR4AIO

Nathaniel N. Pagel: KR4AJE

Kelly E. Steffens: KR4AIP

\* Special congratulations to Benjamin K. Gayer, KZ4PN, as a new ham, he passed all three exam levels in one session and is a new ham with Extra Class privileges.

\*\* 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!

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](http://OARC.org) for the latest information.

The Volunteer Examiners for this session included:

AE4KO Aaron Morrison	KT3S Den Ardinger	KD8J Randy Ellington
N4UMB Joseph Patti	NE4H Edmund Thralls	W2BZY Robert Cumming
WR4RW Rich Wilson	W4VBK Rodney Cavin	NT4K JC McCormick

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## OARC Meetings and Events 2025 Important Meeting Information

February 5, Wednesday	<b>NO MEETING, HamCation</b>
March 5, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: HamCation By: Michael Cauley, W4ORL
April 3, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Grounding and Bonding By: Ward Silver, N0AX
May 7, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: TBD
June 4, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Solar Activity: By the Numbers By: Rob Suggs, NN4NT
June 28-29, Saturday - Sunday	Location: TBD Set up on Friday afternoon, June 27th
July 2, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: Operating in a Foreign Port By: Jeremy Bouse, KQ4AFY

August 6, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: ASK an ELMER (Q&A Session)
September 3, Wednesday	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
October 1, Wednesday	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
November 5, Wednesday	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
December 6, Saturday	Holiday Party

## Local Area Amateur Radio Club Announcements

Club Name	When	Where	Contact	Topic
Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC)	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm License Testing at 5:30pm	Beardall Senior Center 800 S. Delaney, Orlando, FL	Bob Nocero, W4KBW at <a href="mailto:info@oarc.org">info@oarc.org</a>	
Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00pm	Winter Springs Civic Center - 400 North Edgemon Avenue, Winter Springs, FL	Joe Marsh, KQ4AID at <a href="mailto:LMARS.ARC@gmail.com">LMARS.ARC@gmail.com</a>	
Bahia Shriners Amateur Radio Unit	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month	Perkins Restaurant 215 W. SR 436 Altamonte Springs	Rod Cavin, W4VBK <a href="mailto:w4vbk@arrl.net">w4vbk@arrl.net</a>	
Quarter Century	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month	Perkins Restaurant 701 E SR 434,	Roberta Cohen, WA2FRW at <a href="mailto:Wa2frw@aol.com">Wa2frw@aol.com</a>	



Wireless Club (QCWA)		Winter Springs, FL (1 blk east of HRO)		
Bill Church-and-Christy Moore-CERT Team 62	4 <sup>th</sup> 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	<a href="mailto:Kq4afy@osceolacountares.org">Kq4afy@osceolacountares.org</a>	
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 <a href="mailto:W4kbw@cfl.rr.com">W4kbw@cfl.rr.com</a>	
Solavita Radio Club	Last Thursday of the month at 7:00pm	Gator Room, Solivita, 404 Village, Dr, Poinciana, FL	<a href="mailto:operator@kq4afy.xyz">operator@kq4afy.xyz</a>	
Radio Scouting WB4SA	Annual meetings, Quarterly events	Camp La Noche, 41940 Boy Scout Rd, Paisley, FL	Ken Lyons, KN4MDJ <a href="mailto:kn4mdj@gmail.com">kn4mdj@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:info@RadioScouting.us">info@RadioScouting.us</a>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club contacts may submit information each month on what their NEXT monthly meeting topic will be about.</li> <li>• Updates need to be submitted no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for the next month's newsletter edition. If no updates on meeting topic is received, your club general information will be the only information published.</li> <li>• <b>Please submit information to <a href="mailto:editors@oarc.org">editors@oarc.org</a></b></li> </ul>				

## 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 reappportioned 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 – February 2025

(By Joe Marsh, KQ4AID, Board of Directors - LMARS)  
[jhmarshfla@gmail.com](mailto:jhmarshfla@gmail.com) 407-454-1520

Our next HAMS in the Park event will be on February 22 at Blue Jacket Park. As always this is open to all, and I would encourage you to come out. Young or mature, new or experienced, licensed or unlicensed, with or without gear. Come out and join us. We would love to see you.

What is HAMS in the Park? Hams in the Park is a gathering held typically monthly when there are NOT other operating events taking place. We'll pick a different local park to operate from and enjoy fun, fellowship, and learning! While this gathering is not specifically a Parks on the Air (POTA) event, if we pick a POTA park, we'll set up POTA operations and teach you how to be a POTA activator!

If you have gear, bring it. Radios, antennas, Go-Kits, Satellite gear, whatever you have. If you have a popup canopy, bring it. This will allow us to spread apart and not interfere with each other.

If you're new and don't have gear, or if you do not have much experience that is OK. We will share our equipment and our knowledge with you. It's all about learning and having Fun.

During the February 22 Hams in the Park, we will also set up a **Fox Transmitter** if you want to practice your radio direction finding skills. You will be able to test your Tape Measure Yagi, if you built one. If not, you can test any antenna you have. After that you can refine your skills without the antenna for pinpoint locating.

We look forward to seeing you there.

You can get full details here: <https://www.lmars.org/annual-events/hams-in-the-park-bj>

*Have a suggestion for a HAMS in the Park location let us know.*

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## Spotlight: Marcia Forde, KW1U

(The NTS Letter for January 7, 2025)

It has been a desire of mine to spotlight those amateurs who have contributed to NTS and traffic handling in special ways. Recently, however, it was suggested I spotlight myself, so here goes. I have no real technical background although I always enjoyed math and science in school. For years after finishing school, I was a stay-at-home mom with three kids. During those years my oldest son, while in middle school, signed up for a summer school class in Morse code, given by a local ham. This led to his obtaining an amateur radio license which was my initial exposure to the hobby. My

interest was piqued but life got in the way, and it took me several years of on-again, off-again studying before I finally got my Novice license in 1980. After a year of DX, WAS, and all that new hams tend to do, I decided to try traffic nets. My son had been active on the nets, so I was aware of them, but with a Novice-class license, I was limited to CW and my code speed was still slow. I began by copying everything I heard on a net into a notebook. I missed a lot but kept at it and eventually increased my code speed and began to observe how traffic nets operated. After getting the nerve to check into the Eastern Mass Rhode Island Slow Speed Net and being trained by the legendary Jim Hathaway, WA1TBY, I was hooked, and the rest is history. Wanting to pass traffic with the "big boys," I upgraded to General class in 1982 and Extra in 1984, when I got the KW1U call sign. At about the same time, I became Section Traffic Manager and TCC Director for Eastern Area Cycle 2.



After my youngest child graduated from high school in 1986, and with the encouragement of Bob Weinstock, W3RQ, I went to work as a telephone-TTY relay operator for the hearing impaired, relaying phone conversations, which was somewhat similar to passing traffic on the nets. I went on to become coordinator of this service, a job I really enjoyed, until the phone companies were required to provide this service. I then went into health care, becoming a home health aide, before deciding to go to nursing school, finally earning my RN license. I practiced in-home care on Martha's Vineyard Island until retirement.

Since then, and with more time to devote to ham radio, I have served as Section Traffic Manager for Eastern and Western Massachusetts and Rhode Island, MARI section CW net manager, Eastern Area Net Cycle 4 manager and TCC Director for Eastern Area Cycle 4. I operate a regional hub for the Digital Traffic Network as well as a gateway station to Europe via DL4FN. I am currently on the Steering Committee for NTS 2.0 and editor of *The NTS Letter*. As you can probably tell, I like to see things get done. I have learned a lot and have really enjoyed all my experiences as well as all the people I have met through amateur radio.

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## **CWops Announces 2024 Advancing the Art of CW Award**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 2, 2025)**

Each year, [CWops](#), an international organization that promotes and advances Morse code (CW) in amateur radio communications, accepts nominations for individuals, groups, and organizations for the CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW. The award recognizes contributions made toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code.



[The Radio Officer's Association](#) (ROA) is the recipient of the [2024 CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW](#). ROA honors and preserves the history and accomplishments of radio professionals from across the Merchant Navy, Coast Station Service, and Civil Aeronautical industry. Its membership includes nearly 400 former professional radio officers, half of whom hold amateur radio licenses. CWops recognized ROA's efforts to preserve CW history through its journal, and for activities that span CW mentoring, on air nets, and CW-related museum displays and related activities.

The award was recently accepted by ROA's Bill Cross, G0ELZ, at the organization's annual meeting in Liverpool, England. It was presented by CWops President Stew Rolfe, GW0ETF.

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## **ARRL Teachers Institute: Coming to a Town Near You**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 9, 2025)**

The [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#) is going mobile in 2025. In addition to the cohorts hosted at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, there will be several sessions around the United States this year. The first, hosted by ARRL model school Staten Island Technical High School in New York City, will be held January 21-24.

The format is being refined this year from five days to four. That change, along with taking the show on the road, is expected to make it easier for educators to attend, according to ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. "Especially for educators juggling a busy family life, a four-day program near them might be an easier option than a five-day trip to New England." Plans are also being finalized for a session in Kilgore, Texas, in July; and another in the southeastern US.

The programming and support continue to evolve. "We really want to support these TI graduates after they leave, so we have rolled out a Discord server so they can stay in touch with their peers who are also implementing the material they learned here," said Goodgame.

Providing community support and engagement has proven key to the ongoing success from the program. Staten Island Tech High's program is led by [Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT](#), a two-time ARRL TI attendee. Henriques has helped many of his students not only get licensed but also be genuinely engaged in amateur radio. Henriques will help ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, teach the program.

By developing the network of educators who have benefited from the program and by offering the regional opportunities, Goodgame hopes to receive more applications to attend. TI is free for educators, thanks to funding from donors through the [ARRL Education and Technology Fund](#). There is a \$100 application fee if the educator is accepted.

Goodgame sees a long-term benefit to wrapping genuine fun into this radio-centric curriculum. "Inspiration drives innovation so if we don't inspire young people to innovate and expose them to RF, they're not going to innovate in those fields," he said. "Somebody will, it's just not going to be our kids."

To learn more about the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, and to apply to attend, head to [www.arrl.org/ti](http://www.arrl.org/ti).

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## **FCC Upholds Record \$34,000 Forfeiture Against Amateur Licensee**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 9, 2025)**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) assessed a record [\\$34,000 forfeiture](#) against an amateur radio licensee for "willfully and repeatedly operating a radio station without authorization and interfering with the radio communications of the United States Forest Service ... while the U.S. Forest Service and the Idaho Department of Lands were attempting to direct the operations of fire suppression aircraft working a 1,000-acre wildfire on national forest land outside of Elk River, Idaho."



As ARRL News first reported in 2022, the FCC proposed the fine against Jason Frawley of Lewiston, Idaho, for allegedly interfering with radio operations of the U.S. Forest Service during firefighting activities for the Johnson Creek Fire near Elk River in July 2021. The FCC stated in the Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) that Frawley holds an Extra-class Amateur Radio Service license, WA7CQ, and is the owner/operator of Leader Communications LLC, licensee of eight microwave licenses and one business license.

As ARRL News first reported in 2022, the FCC proposed the fine against Jason Frawley of Lewiston, Idaho, for allegedly interfering with radio operations of the U.S. Forest Service during firefighting activities for the Johnson Creek Fire near Elk River in July 2021. The FCC stated in the Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL) that Frawley holds an Extra-class Amateur Radio Service license, WA7CQ, and is the owner/operator of Leader Communications LLC, licensee of eight microwave licenses and one business license.

In response, Frawley acknowledged that he operated on a frequency reserved for government use and for which he lacked authorization but argues that he did not cause interference to the government's fire suppression activities that were being coordinated on the channel and acted with "good faith and non-malicious intent to help." Frawley requested a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture based on the number and duration of the unauthorized transmissions, his history of compliance and corrective measures, and his inability to pay the proposed forfeiture.

In the Forfeiture Order released on January 3, 2025, the FCC rejected Frawley's request and assessed the full proposed forfeiture of \$34,000. Read more about the story [in previous coverage from ARRL News](#).

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## Essential Guide to Two-Way Radio Communication

(By Scott Read, KM6RFB, The ARES Letter for January 25, 2025)

Shorthand expressions and codes are useful for radio communication, especially when you need to transfer information quickly. It's important to make sure that everyone's on the same page with the terminology you're using and what it all means, so make sure all radio users know and understand all the terms in advance. You may decide to just use plain language, or use just a few of these terms instead of all of them – whichever helps your team to communicate effectively.

Common terminology in radio communication is crucial because it ensures clear and concise information exchange between individuals or groups, especially in critical situations like emergencies/disasters, by eliminating confusion arising from different interpretations of words or phrases, allowing for swift and effective action; essentially, everyone on the same radio channel understands the meaning of each term used, leading to better coordination and response times.

In amateur radio, we tend to use terminology that has been applied to and accepted in our community, deeply rooted in our long history, particularly from the historic use of telegraphy with Morse code stemming from the 1850s.

In the world of the public safety community we serve, however, amateur radio operators need to shift our mindset to using its language of public safety, understand agencies' requirements and how they communicate. Public safety workers generally do not understand our jargon, nor have the time to learn it. Under presidential directive after 9/11, the whole community needed to adopt common language, which ultimately embraced the NIMS/ICS terminology set.

A good example is the Q-signals table, a system of radio shorthand as old as wireless and developed from even older telegraphy codes. Q-signals are a set of abbreviations for common information that save time and allow communication between amateur radio operators. But public safety professionals are almost totally unfamiliar with it. Just the opposite is true with public safety and the use of Ten Codes, with which we as hams are mostly unfamiliar. Examples for police radio: **10-0** Use Caution; **10-1** Weak Signal; **10-2** Good Signal; **10-3** Stop Transmitting; **10-4** Affirmative; etc. [Read the police 10-codes](#). Even worse, they may not even be clear between public safety agencies. This can impede the flow of information between served agencies in a timely process.

Key points about the importance of common radio terminology:

- **Reduces miscommunication:** Using standardized terms minimizes the risk of misunderstandings that could have serious consequences in emergency scenarios.
- **Improves interoperability:** When different agencies or teams use the same radio language, it facilitates collaboration and information sharing across groups.
- **Efficiency in communication:** Standardized phrases and codes allow for faster transmission of information, particularly when time is critical.
- **Safety enhancement:** Clear and consistent communication is essential for ensuring safety in situations like search and rescue operations or industrial work environments.

Examples of common radio terminology:

- *Roger:* Acknowledgment of a message received.
- *Over and Out:* Indicates the end of a transmission and requests a response
- *Mayday:* Emergency distress call
- *Affirmative:* Yes
- *Negative:* No
- *Go ahead:* I am ready for your message
- *Say again:* Repeat all of your last message
- *Say all before/after:* Repeat all before/after a certain phrase or word if you didn't catch part of the message
- *Out:* Conversation is finished, no answer is required or expected
- *Radio check:* What's my signal strength? Can you hear me?
- *Read you loud and clear:* Your transmission signal is good; I can hear you fine
- *Wilco:* Abbreviation of "I will comply", means the speaker will complete the task that's been asked of them
- *Break, break:* Interruption to a transmission to communicate urgently
- *Emergency, emergency:* Distress call, only to be used when there is an imminent danger to life and immediate assistance is required
- *Stand by:* Wait
- *Wait out:* Waiting period is longer than I expected, I will get back to you as soon as possible
- *I spell:* The next word will be spelled out using the phonetic alphabet

The ITU or NATO phonetic alphabet is internationally recognized and used. If you've ever tried to spell a word over a radio, you'll understand why—it makes things much simpler. [Read the ITU phonetic alphabet list.](#)

In conclusion, we need to keep in mind that at the end of the day we work for the served agency. We should think of them as our client and the citizens we serve as our customers. It is also important to remember how we integrate into their operation and not the other way around.



# Ham Radio Operators Serving During California Firestorms

(The ARRL Letter for January 16, 2025)

As the firestorms across Southern California continue to threaten millions of residents, trained amateur radio operators are serving critical volunteer roles to help officials spot fires before they get out of control. Dry conditions and wind gusts of up to 100 miles per hour have fueled days of devastating wildfires. Entire neighborhoods have been leveled by infernos.

The Eaton fire burned to the top of Mount Wilson, a critical logistical post for broadcast radio and television stations, as well as communications across the Southland. Federal agencies, air traffic control, local emergency responders, radio amateurs, and others all share tower space on the mountain.

While the main fires have been burning north and northwest of the central section of Los Angeles, just to the south, hams are standing watch. [Orange County Fire Watch \(OCFW\)](#) is a program locally organized by the Orange County Parks Department and the Irvine Conservancy.

During severe fire weather, volunteers go to preassigned locations within parks and open spaces to report conditions. Many of them are hams, using the amateur radio bands to fill in mobile network weak zones.

[ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA](#), is among the deployed volunteers. He said hams are stepping up. "We're all over the [ARRL Orange Section](#) on hilltops, reporting the wind and humidity, ash seen coming down, scanning for spot fires (none so far), smoke from the LA fires, guest activity at the parks, and being a presence at trailheads with reflective vests and vehicle signs indicating Fire Watch," he said.

Ray Hutchinson, AE6H, is a retired firefighter who serves as the chief radio officer for Fire Watch. He says local clubs are key to providing the needed RF infrastructure. "Our local club, the [South Orange Amateur Radio Association](#) (SOARA), an ARRL Special Service Club, provides linked 2-meter and 70-centimeter repeaters: one high level and one coastal, for use by OCFW hams during deployments. There is a formal OCFW Net Control Station (NCS) for the entirety of these events.

Radio amateurs are also ready and able to serve at evacuation centers, providing support as needed.

Members of ARRL Headquarters staff have been in touch with ARRL volunteers and other ham radio groups around the affected area, and are offering material support for any activations. "It has been a busy start to the year for ham volunteers," said ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. "Whether it's

firestorms or ice storms or any other need, ARRL volunteers selflessly serve their communities. We're mindful that large-scale events like this impact the hams who are active serving," she said.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, has been on calls with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other served agencies, offering ARRL resources. Efforts are being coordinated locally by [Emergency Network Los Angeles \(ENLA\)](#), the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) group in Southern California.

Johnston urges hams in the affected regions to be ready to take care of themselves and their families before needing to deploy. He points to resources shared by [ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) during National Preparedness Month last September. "These are stressful events for everyone, and being a ham volunteer is really second to keeping yourself and your family safe," said Johnston.

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## **ARRL Club Grant Program Awards a Half Million Dollars to Grow Ham Radio**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 23, 2025)**

Thirty-seven amateur radio clubs benefitted from \$500,502 in grants through the ARRL Club Grant Program to implement projects that educate, recruit, train, and promote amateur radio in their communities. Funding for the grants comes from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications \(ARDC\)](#).

There were 110 applicants to the 2024 ARRL Club Grant Program, with applicants from all ARRL Divisions and 40 states, requesting nearly \$1.6 million in support, in amounts ranging from as small as \$1,000 to as large as the maximum of \$25,000. Funds were distributed to the clubs in December of 2024.

Some examples of the work that will be accomplished via these grants include upgrades to antennas within [Florida's SARNet](#), a statewide linked UHF repeater network that is used extensively by emergency managers during hurricanes; enhancement of amateur radio-based telemetry systems onboard Illinois Space Society projects, and many programs targeting youth outreach.

"These grants are possible because of the strong partnership between ARRL and ARDC," said ARRL Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, "and provide transformational impact for the next generation of amateur radio clubs."

## **ARRL Club Grants Fund Hardware for Florida Students to Make Contact with the International Space Station** **(The ARRL Letter for January 23,2025)**

Pine View School for the Gifted (PVS) in Osprey, Florida, has an opportunity to achieve a historic milestone on Tuesday, January 28, at 12:21 PM (EST), when students and faculty make live contact with astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The event marks the first time any school in Sarasota County has been selected to take part in the [Amateur Radio on the International Space Station \(ARISS\)](#) program and reflects PVS's commitment to inspiring future scientists, engineers, and explorers.

Partnering with the [Tamiami Amateur Radio Club \(TARC\)](#), an ARRL Affiliated Club in Venice, Florida, PVS will use radios, antennas, and expert operators to facilitate this rare connection. Sixteen students will engage in a live two-way conversation with astronaut Sunita Lyn "Suni" Williams, asking questions and receiving answers in real time. The ISS will be in communication range for just 11 minutes, traveling at over 17,500 MPH.

The station's equipment and satellite tracking ground station were funded by a grant from the [ARRL Foundation](#), secured by TARC last summer. TARC members will assist in assembling the station and training students in its operation.

"Connecting with astronauts on the ISS will inspire these students for years to come, emphasizing curiosity, exploration, and the limitless possibilities of science and technology," said TARC president Paul Nienaber, KN4BAR.

Nienaber added that TARC has played a pivotal role in preparing for this event by training students, parents, and faculty to earn amateur radio operator licenses. So far, 13 students and five adults at PVS have earned their FCC licenses, paving the way for the establishment of a school amateur radio club. With equipment on long-term loan from TARC, the club will soon operate a fully functional amateur radio station, capable of global communication.

The Sarasota County School District will live stream the event on its YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/@SarasotaSchools](http://www.youtube.com/@SarasotaSchools)).



NASA astronaut Sunita Lyn "Suni" Williams currently on board the ISS. (NASA photo)

# Ham Radio Demonstration Helps Survivors of Violence at Camp

(The ARRL Letter for January 23, 2025)

Camp Family Justice serves pediatric survivors of violence in Contra Costa County, California, providing them with an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors in a safe environment surrounded by support services, including a medical clinic. The camp provides the opportunity for children to decompress, learn resiliency skills and build a path forward. Children who applied this year, and attended last year, are now reporting that they worked diligently in school to earn the privilege of attending Camp Family Justice for a second year.

Also contributing to Camp Family Justice is Spencer Holmes, KM6SJ, a popular science teacher at Heritage High School in Brentwood and adviser for the school's amateur radio club, W6HHS.

A few weeks ago, Holmes brought a box full of radios to the camp. "The kids were excited," said Holmes. "They had a lot of questions and two of campers took two GMRS radios and talked to each other for hours." Holmes also set up a mini HF station. He was able to make contact with several stations and allowed the youth to talk, on a first-name basis, with other amateur radio operators.

"Clearly, it was chaotic fun," he added. "But it allowed them to enjoy a safe environment and a sense of community." Holmes is one of the only teachers in the state to receive a national supporting grant from ARRL to facilitate radio communication education.

Some of the kids will be cycling through again this year to Camp Family Justice. Holmes thinks he might start talking about how to become an amateur radio operator and how he can make that happen.

Holmes is known for his dedication to education and his long-standing commitment to the East County community. What makes this year at Camp Family Justice especially meaningful for Holmes is an unexpected reunion with Registered Nurse Adrianna Goyette. Goyette, it turns out, was once Holmes's student at Heritage High School. Both are now giving back to the community, contributing their time and expertise to the camp's violence prevention program. Their story reflects the strength of the East County community, the power of mentorship, the lasting impact of education and a tip of the hat to amateur radio.

# ARRL Teachers Institute a Success on Staten Island

(The ARRL Letter for January 30, 2025)

The first field session of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology reached nine New York City area educators, but the ripple effects will reach thousands of students. The session was held at the Staten Island Technical High School, home of a thriving and active amateur radio club. It was led in part by Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, an educator at the school and TI graduate. In August 2024, [49 of Henriques' students earned their licenses](#).

All 9 teachers came away with their amateur licenses (if they didn't already have one), along with the training, knowledge, and excitement to integrate amateur radio into their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics lessons. ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, says the results seen in hundreds of classrooms across the country speak for themselves. "Amateur radio is a great platform upon which students can learn and experiment with STEM areas of instruction. It allows students to participate in hands-on activities that give meaningful connections to lessons that would normally be abstract in the classroom," he said.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is funded entirely by donations to the [ARRL Education & Technology Fund](#). No member dues go toward the program. The success that teachers across the country are seeing is a result of hundreds of donors trusting ARRL to invest in the future of the hobby through educating and inspiring the next generation of hams. The program is free to educators.

Many of these success stories are highlighted in the *Radio Waves* publication. *Radio Waves* aims to showcase how educators and license class instructors are getting their students and local communities involved in ham radio. Editions may be read online, or members can sign up for e-mail delivery at [www.arrl.org/radio-waves](http://www.arrl.org/radio-waves).

"We are seeing results of the work we've put into this program. Young people are getting inspired, licensed, and active in amateur radio," said Goodgame. "The time we commit to this will pay dividends to the hobby for generations to come."

Other sessions are planned for Texas and the Southeast during 2025. Interested educators are encouraged to apply. Learn more at [www.arrl.org/ti](http://www.arrl.org/ti).

# Amateur Radio in the News

## (The ARRL Letter for January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025)

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

["Ham radio is still a disaster lifeline, even in the iPhone era - here's why"](#) / ZDNET (New York) December 18, 2024

["Mike Hall to run Lanierland Amateur Radio Club Net On Christmas Day as he recovers from stroke"](#) / WDUN (Georgia) December 25, 2024

["Local club connecting amateur radio enthusiasts"](#) / Weirton Daily News (Ohio) December 27, 2024

["Ham it up with radio hams at Belwin"](#) / The Gazette (Minnesota) December 28, 2024 -- *The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Amateur Radio Club makes library donation"](#) / Jackson Progress – Argus (Georgia) December 31, 2024 -- *The Amateur Radio Club of Butts County is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Binghamton Amateur Radio Association Hosts Kids Day at Vestal Fire"](#) / WICZ (New York) January 4, 2025 -- *The Binghamton Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Ham Radio University Educational Conference held at LIU Post"](#) / News12 (New York) January 4, 2025 -- Long Island University. *The Ham Radio University Amateur Radio Club and The Great South Bay ARC are ARRL Affiliated Clubs.*

["Amateur Radio Enthusiasts plan Winter Field Day in Williamston"](#) / The Journal (South Carolina) January 9, 2025 -- *The Anderson Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Amateur Radio "Hamfest" coming to Ada next month"](#) / The Ada News (Oklahoma) January 11, 2025 -- *The Pontotoc County Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Peoria-area amateur radio operators participating in nationwide Winter Field Day event"](#) / WEEK (Illinois) January 13, 2025 -- *The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["See and Be Seen': OC Fire Watch Volunteers Use Vigilance to Prevent Wildfires"](#) / Voice of OC (Orange County, California) January 7, 2025.

["HAM radio group to join Winter Field Day"](#) / Burnet Bulletin (Texas) January 15, 2024 -- *The Highland Lakes Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Amateur Radio Club provides opportunities to BSC students"](#) / KFYZ TV (North Dakota) January 17, 2023 -- *The Bismarck State College Amateur Radio Club.*

["Amateur radio knows no boundaries"](#) / KCPN (Indiana) January 17, 2025 -- *The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Wireless association prepares for Amateur Radio Field Day"](#) / The Greenville Advocate (Alabama) January 18, 2025 -- *The Jim Bell Wireless Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Amateur Radio "Hamfest" coming to Ada next month"](#) / The Ada News (Oklahoma) January 17, 2025 -- *The Pontotoc County Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["GARS to hold Amateur Radio Winter Field Day 2025 on Jan. 25 & 26"](#) / Alachua Chronicle (Florida) January 21, 2025 -- *The Gainesville Amateur Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club to participate in 2025 Winter Field Day"](#) / WNKY (Kentucky) January 24, 2025 -- *The Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club.*

["Grayson County Amateur Radio Club preps for emergencies in Winter Field Day"](#) / KTEN (Texas) January 25, 2025 -- *The Grayson County Amateur Radio Club.*

["Radio enthusiasts to the rescue in emergency communications"](#) / The Daily Sentinel (Colorado) January 25, 2025 -- The Mesa County Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (MCARES).

["Amateur radio club to participate in national Winter Field Day"](#) / The Record (New York) January 25, 2025 -- The East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association.

["Amateur radio operators vital during disasters"](#) / Tribune Chronicle (Ohio) January 27, 2025 -- The Warren Amateur Radio Association.

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

**John Mahagan/WB4JHS, [jmahagan@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmahagan@bellsouth.net)  
Dunnellon, FL**

Cell Phone: (321) 229-6527 has the following want:

**Item # 1: I am looking for a Moxon 10 meter beam or a 6 & 10 combo.  
I can pick up around Central Florida.**

-----  
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](mailto:jdeuel@oarc.org)) before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. All lists received after the 20<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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