



# The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams February 2026

## President's Message

Greetings! As we all are trying to stay warm this weekend, we are just under two weeks until the start of HamCation 2026. I want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who has volunteered for HamCation this year. It takes an army of volunteers to put HamCation together each year.

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### OARC MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 7:30pm

#### 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

James Deuel, N0XIA

Kevin Jackson, AA3XV

Aaron Morrison, AE4KO

Christy Moore, KN4MDM

Ed Thralls, NE4H

The Listening Post is the OARC newsletter for OARC members. The LP will be posted on the OARC.org web page ([oarc.org/club-listening-post](http://oarc.org/club-listening-post)).

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, Bob Cumming W2BZY, Aaron Morrison, AE4KO, James Deuel, N0XIA, and 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

**ASK AN ELMER:** Where you can ask questions and get respectful answers. Send your questions to: [info@oarc.org](mailto:info@oarc.org)

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

It all starts with you, to the HamCation Committee, and the General Chairman, Michael. The time, effort, and dedication it takes from the start early last year after HamCation 2025 all the way until HamCation 2026 is over, is truly appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

One week from today we start by loading the large truck and trailer of all of the things from storage for HamCation. Then on Monday, we start at the fairgrounds putting the pieces of the puzzle together in every effort to bring another 5-star HamCation to our little community of amateur radio operators all the while each of us deal with different anomalies in our personal lives.

As a Co-Commercial Chairman, I'm thrilled to say that we have 18 brand new vendors that have never been to HamCation before. All the popular vendors will be back too. Don't forget to have your ticket laminated (minus the stub) and pick up a 2026 HamCation Lanyard with commemorative theme logo for a \$5 donation to the Scouts in the North Hall. Please help support the Scouts fundraising efforts, so that their activities are funded. Be sure to check out the list of Affiliated Events during the week of HamCation on the website. HamCation is also hosting its first ever Saturday Night Banquet, with HamCation Awards presentation, an awesome Keynote Speaker, and a Farm to Table buffet and desserts. Details [on the website](#).

A new procedure will start this month when you attend our meeting. We are now considered a City of Orlando activity being held at Beardall Senior Center. Being considered an activity will allow OARC to save money by not having to pay room rental fees for our meetings. There will be a form for you to fill out one time, asking for your name and the name of an emergency contact. You will only need to fill this form on your first visit or if your information changes, or if you attend a different activity at a city facility. I will email the form out in advance to save you time by pre-filling the form out. This will take less than 3 minutes to complete.

At the March meeting, we will start creating a slate of nominations for the upcoming Board of Directors elections in April. I encourage anyone that is eligible to run for either a director position or officer position. If you have any questions about what it entails, please do not hesitate to ask. I do want you to know that a position on the board is a working volunteer position. With the recent adoption of the revised bylaws, a 7th Director position has been added and needs to be filled.

Hope to see everyone Wednesday night at the meeting!! The program is "Pirate, Spy and Clandestine Radio", presented by Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB.

73,

*John Knott*, N4JTK

# HamCation® Chairperson's News

(By Michael Cauley, W4ORL, General Chairman)

# February 13, 14, and 15, 2026



# Our Club is Growing – New Members and Birthdays

(By Rick Peron, KM4KQQ, Membership Chairman)



KO4YAY Jennifer Taylor/Tech

KR4IUK L. Reid Seybold/Tech

## Birthdays this Month

K4TEL Thomas Long  
K9LAZ Laszlo Patassy  
KD9UKC Edward Caraballo  
KE4MSM Wojciech Kossowski  
KN4LSR Michael Sims  
KO4WJN Mario Tello  
KQ4POK Gonzalo Rosa  
KR4EHZ Gabriel Palau  
KR4FWR Nicholas Cosmidis  
N2TEI Tor Erik Isaksen  
W4QKP Dick DiVittorio



KR4EJW Jacob Rosene  
KV4WG William Warner  
W1NV Robert Bartucco  
W9TAX David Corral  
WQ4M Donna Eakin

K8MXY J. Doug Braithwaite  
KB2AS Karl Sutherland  
KE4FMY Patrick Gee  
KK4OSC P. Sandy Allison  
KO4FEK Steve Thomas  
KO4YAY Jennifer Taylor  
KR4EHL Henry Mercado  
KR4EKA Miriam Baez-Lopez  
KZ4QC Joseph Danet  
W1SRR Mike Acevedo  
WA4KNT Leslie Williams

## 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.

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

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.

### Expiring 2/28/2026

#### First Name Last Name/Call

Steve Broome/KN4NUI  
Edward Caraballo/KD9UKC  
Fernando Caraballo/KO4BBK  
Glenn Davies/KO4NTA  
Karl Francetic/KM4MEM  
Rick Harrelson/WB4ULT  
James Horak/KG5PTE  
Patrick Huff/KQ4GEE  
Jerry Jones/K4PPZ  
James C Lowe/AC4JL  
Ted Mach/N4FBY  
Alejandro Malave-

### Expiring 3/30/2026

#### First Name Last Name/Call

Sara Adams/KC2NXX  
Jacob Baker/K4RZO  
Robert Bartucco/W1NV  
Michael Cardona/KO4VTH  
Diana Coffman/KO4VEJ  
Frank Dauns/KR4BZZ  
Timothy Dwyer/AC4TD  
Thomas Gandy/KC4AQF  
Larry Gwaltney/KR4CAI  
Sean Henry/KR4CAJ  
Angel Hernandez/N2YNV  
Joshua Hufford/KA4JSH

### Expiring 4/30/2026

#### First Name Last Name/Call

Frank Gergits/KC9GNQ  
Richard Mastrocola/KE2DBQ  
Charlie Santana/N4PPR  
Frank Tagliani/KD4EZW  
Dennis Voegler/WA4QMS

Barrozzi/KN4YRX  
Alan Marote/WA1LBG

Wojciech Kossowski/KE4MSM  
David Lehman/KR4BEQ  
Todd Ludington/KQ4NZC  
Ralf Pemsel/K4RPP  
Jhoan Rivero/KR4CBU  
Wayne Roberts/KR4CAP  
Rolando Tovar/KR4CAD  
Johnathon Wackenhuth/KR4CAE

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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:



### No Exams given during the month of December

#### EXTRA CLASS\*

#### GENERAL CLASS\*

Christopher Brown/ KR4FLG

#### TECHNICIAN CLASS \*\*

Louis Seybold/ KR4IUUK

\* 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!

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  
N4UMB Joe Patti

KT3S Den Ardinger  
WR4RW Rich Wilson

W4VBK Rod Cavin  
NE4H Ed Thralls  
W2BZY Bob Cumming



# OARC Meetings and Events 2026

## Important Meeting Information

| <b>2026</b>                     |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| February 4, Wednesday           | <p style="text-align: center;">License Exams 5:30pm<br/>Meeting 7:30pm<br/>at the Beardall Senior Center<br/>Program: "Pirate, Spy and Clandestine Radio" by Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB</p>           |
| February 13-15, Friday - Sunday | <b>HamCation</b>  |
| March 4, Wednesday              | <p style="text-align: center;">License Exams 5:30pm<br/>Meeting 7:30pm<br/>at the Beardall Senior Center<br/>Program: "HamCation 2026" by Michael Cauley, W4ORL</p>                             |
| March 21, Saturday              | <p>OARC/HamCation Volunteer Picnic<br/>Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake, Pavilions 1&amp;2</p>  |
| April 1, Wednesday              | <p style="text-align: center;">License Exams 5:30pm<br/>Meeting 7:30pm<br/>at the Beardall Senior Center<br/>Program: "Hints and Kinks with NanoVNA" by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ</p>                 |
| May 6, Wednesday                | <p style="text-align: center;">License Exams 5:30pm<br/>Meeting 7:30pm<br/>at the Beardall Senior Center<br/>Program: "Introduction to Microcontrollers" by Glen Popiel, KW5GP</p>              |
| June 3, Wednesday               | <p style="text-align: center;">License Exams 5:30pm<br/>Meeting 7:30pm<br/>at the Beardall Senior Center<br/>Program: "High Efficiency Mutli-band Wire Antenna Design" by Gary Baker, K7EMF</p> |
| June 26 - 28, Friday - Sunday   | <p>Field Day<br/>Location: TBD</p>  |
| July 1, Wednesday               | <p style="text-align: center;">License Exams 5:30pm<br/>Meeting 7:30pm<br/>at the Beardall Senior Center<br/>Program: "Close Encounters of the Microcontroller Kind" by Glen Popiel, KW5GP</p>  |
| August 5, Wednesday             | <p style="text-align: center;">License Exams 5:30pm<br/>Meeting 7:30pm<br/>at the Beardall Senior Center<br/>Program: "Ask and Elmer" by OARC Board of Directors</p>                            |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| September 2, Wednesday   | License Exams 5:30pm<br>Meeting 7:30pm<br>at the Beardall Senior Center<br>Program: "Off Grid Communication with LoRa and Meshtastic" by Tom Graham, WX8TOM                             |
| October 7, Wednesday   | License Exams 5:30pm<br>Meeting 7:30pm<br>at the Beardall Senior Center<br>Program: "Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) Antenna for EmComm" by Gary Spangenberg, KF4GGK              |
| November 4, Wednesday  | License Exams 5:30pm<br>Meeting 7:30pm<br>at the Beardall Senior Center<br>Program: "10 acres for Antennas Where my Wife Doesn't Live: Building a Remote Station" by Bruce Perens, K6BP |
| December 5, Saturday   | Holiday Party   |
| <p><b>ASK AN ELMER</b></p> <p>Where you can ask questions and get respectful answers.<br/>Send your questions to: <a href="mailto:info@oarc.org">info@oarc.org</a></p> |   |

## **On The Air Live Offers Learning Opportunities for ARRL Members**

(The ARRL Club News for January 20, 2026)

If you've wanted to learn a new data mode, how to enhance your portable operations, or learn a new method for building an antenna, then check out ARRL's *On the Air Live* video live stream. My name is Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, and I'm ARRL's Education Specialist and the host of *On the Air Live*. My goal is to inspire ham radio operators to try something new or try different approaches to enhance their ham radio experience. In the past year, we've covered topics including how to use your handheld transceiver, a deep dive into APRS, how to send and receive SSTV images, and how to use your ham radio privileges to keep in contact with family and loved ones outside of a disaster area where you may be at that moment.

*On the Air Live* airs on the ARRL Learning Center website, [learn.arrl.org](http://learn.arrl.org), on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 PM Eastern. What makes *On the Air Live* different from other live streams and podcasts is our sessions are completely interactive. You can ask questions or even provide your own experiences for the benefit of all the participants anytime during the session. I believe we all have something to learn from each other. The sessions are free, but pre-registration is required. Please join us for

the next session on January 27 to discuss near vertical incidence skywave antennas for regional HF communications.

— Thanks to Wayne Greene, KB4DSF



The poster is framed by a decorative border of palm trees. At the top, the title "Florida State Parks on the Air Contest" is written in green. Below it, the dates "April 17 through 20, 2026" are centered. The text "172 Parks, Trails, and Historical Sites to Choose From" and "Activate One or Activate Them ALL!" are also centered. The central part of the poster features a map of Florida with yellow callouts pointing to various locations. Each callout contains specific information about the 2026 contest. At the bottom, there are logos for "Florida State Parks ON THE AIR" and "POTA PARKS ON THE AIR", along with contact information including an email address, a group subscription link, and two website URLs.

**Florida State Parks on the Air Contest**  
April 17 through 20, 2026  
172 Parks, Trails, and Historical Sites to Choose From  
Activate One or Activate Them ALL!

**New Dates for 2026**  
Friday—Monday  
4 Days to Compete  
(8 AM to 7:59 PM each day)

**New Sponsor and Management for 2026**

**New Rules for 2026**  
Keep it Simple and Make it Fun!

**Mark Your Calendars. Get your Club to Participate as a Club Station**

**Florida State Parks ON THE AIR**

**POTA PARKS ON THE AIR**

For More Information:  
Email: [info@fspota.org](mailto:info@fspota.org)  
Subscribe: [fspota+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:fspota+subscribe@groups.io)

<https://fspota.org> <https://parksontheair.com/>

# Join ARRL in Celebrating America's 250th – On the Air!

(The ARRL Letter for January 8, 2026)

In 2026, ARRL is commemorating America's 250th birthday with a yearlong on-the-air celebration: the America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award. Running from January 1 through December 31, this special operating event challenges amateurs of all license classes to contact all 50 US states and confirm those QSOs via ARRL's [Logbook of The World](#) (LoTW). Modeled after the classic WAS Award, America250 WAS encourages activity across nearly every band — from LF through microwaves — and on CW, phone, and digital, culminating in a commemorative, frame-worthy WAS certificate.

Participants can pursue America250 WAS in many ways, with endorsements recognizing achievements by band, by mode, Triple Play (all three modes), by satellite, by contacting ARRL Affiliated Club Stations in all 50 states, and by contacting W1AW/portable in all 50 states. Throughout 2026, the iconic W1AW call sign will be "loaned" to stations nationwide, activating each state twice during the year. All confirmations are handled through [LoTW](#), making it easy to track progress and apply for awards and endorsements.

ARRL members can read all the details in the [Jan/Feb 2026](#) issue of *On the Air* magazine.

Look for the following W1AW/portable activations. Operations begin 0000z on Wednesday, and end on 2359z Tuesday (7 days total for each activation). See the complete schedule at [www.arrl.org/america250-was](http://www.arrl.org/america250-was).

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## Quicksilver Radio Products

(the ARRL Letter for January 8, 2026)

John Bartscherer, N1GNV (SK), better known in the amateur radio community as John Bee, owner of **Quicksilver Radio Products**, passed away on October 25, 2025. He was first licensed in 1989 and held an Amateur Extra class license. Prior to founding [Quicksilver Radio Products](#), he was the ARRL Advertising Manager for four years. He is survived by his children, Elizabeth and Jay, and his brother Michael.

Following Bartscherer's passing, Quicksilver was closed for reorganization but has just announced its reopening. The company's new retail store is now open in New Holland, Pennsylvania. Quicksilver's West Coast store in Anaheim, California, is still in operation.

(Editor's note: Quicksilver Radio Products will be at HamCation 2026)

# New 60-Meter Frequencies Available as of February 13

(The ARRL Letter for January 15, 2026)

The new 60-meter frequencies approved by the FCC in December will become available to amateurs as of February 13, 2026, along with new power restrictions on those frequencies. It's a bit confusing, as different rules apply to different segments of the band. The changes result from the FCC's action to approve a worldwide 60-meter amateur allocation made by the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 (WRC-15). See <https://tinyurl.com/mt8p8jpa>.



As of February 13, FCC-licensed amateur operators holding General Class or higher licenses may operate on a secondary basis anywhere between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz, subject to a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz and maximum transmit power of 9.15 watts ERP (effective radiated power). For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP (peak envelope power) is multiplied by the antenna gain relative to a half-wave dipole antenna. A half-wave dipole is presumed to have a gain of 1 (0 dBd). Amateurs using other antennas must maintain in their station records either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Here's the confusing part: The existing 60-meter channels centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz remain as secondary amateur allocations with maximum power of 100 watts ERP. However, the old channel at 5358.5 kHz is eliminated as it is now part of the new 5351.5-5366.5 kHz subband and subject to the lower power limit.

For all 60-meter transmissions, emission bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz or less and amateurs must not cause harmful interference to, and must accept interference from, stations authorized by the United States (NTIA and FCC) and other nations in the fixed service; and all other nations in the mobile service (except aeronautical mobile). Data or RTTY emissions in particular must be limited in transmission length so as not to cause harmful interference. Digital mode operators must be familiar with offsets in order to stay within the authorized frequencies.

The new FCC rules take effect on February 13, which is 30 days after publication in the January 14 edition of the *Federal Register*. See also [ARRL News](#) for related background.

# FCC Poised to Exempt Amateurs from Foreign Adversary Reporting Requirements

(The ARRL Letter for January 15, 2026)

At the urging of ARRL, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected to exempt radio amateurs from foreign adversary reporting requirements. These rules would have applied to citizens of the listed countries (see below), including those living in the United States, who hold or are applying for an FCC license.



On January 8, 2026, the FCC released a draft Report and Order (R&O) [[GN Docket No. 25-166](#); [PDF](#)] expected to be adopted at its January 29 meeting that will, as requested by ARRL, exempt radio amateurs from requirements that would have applied reporting requirements to every FCC-authorized radio amateur “subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign adversary.” This included “(a)ny individual, wherever located, who is a citizen of a foreign adversary or a country controlled by a foreign adversary, and is not a United States citizen or permanent resident of the United States.” Foreign adversaries as defined in the draft R&O are: (1) China, including Hong Kong and Macau; (2) Cuba; (3) Iran; (4) North Korea; (5) Russian Federation; and (6) “Venezuelan politician Nicolás Maduro.”

The draft liberally cites ARRL’s comments, agreeing that the nature of amateur radio communication – as well as other individually-licensed radio services – poses minimal risk to public communications networks and that “the drain on Commission personnel and resources to process the collections and attestations for each individual licensee would far outweigh the little benefit to the public or the agency of doing so.”

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## Converting Retired Construction Light Tower Trailers for Radio Use

(The ARES Letter for January 23, 2026)

In Minnesota and elsewhere, used construction light tower trailers have been adapted by hams to support radio antennas. These are often sold with a 12 horsepower three-cylinder diesel engine, a 30-foot steel crank-up tower, and 6 kilowatt AC 120/240V single phase generator. They are around \$12,000 new, but used they can be down in the \$1000 range in running condition, or \$250 and up if not running. They are most commonly found at construction equipment auction sites such as [Iron Planet](#) or [Equipment Facts](#).

These units are not without hazards, as they were not designed or tested for consumer use. Diesel fuel can spill; used diesel oil is hazardous, as an example. The tower cables can snap and you can strike overhead power lines. But, 30 feet is a lot of tower and with the included outriggers and removal of two of the usual four lights, they can accommodate a small antenna or two and can be guyed. They usually have four metal halide lights and can illuminate 3-5 acres. The newest "vertical" units tend to have short vertical masts (24') and may include LED lights.

We like the fast setup time these towers offer – a few minutes. We have added more batteries and solar panels, mesh radios, and video cameras to ours. They are common in rental fleets and in government/emergency applications.

Repairs are often simple. The tires, wheels and other running gear are usually industry standard. The same is true for axles and wheel bearings. The stabilizer jacks are also standard. The retracting square tubes can be obtained locally (often 2'x2'x1/8"). ([Metal Supermarket](#) is one supplier). Clamp-on jacks can be purchased to replace missing or rusted ones.

Lift cables should be inspected and replaced if frayed. Winches are standard equipment. Some trailers have electric hoists. (I dislike those, however--you need power to operate them, and if you don't stop them in time you can snap the lift cable and the tower crashes down). Forklift pockets are standard for loading them on flatbed trucks or trailers.

It is common for these trailers to be equipped with 2-inch ball hitches or pintle hitches. Pintle hitch adapters to a standard 2x2 inch receiver are common. We have removed pintle hitches from all of our 16-plus purchased units. Trailer brake lights (usually 4 wire-flat) are not universal, and are often broken. We bring a magnetic light kit to all trailer auction purchases.

Tower trailer licensing varies widely by state. In our state, Minnesota, trailers are defined as "construction support equipment" and do not require titles or license plates. In our experience, insurance is inexpensive, in the \$30/year range.

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## **Vandals Strike Ham Factory**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 22, 2026)**

A major act of vandalism has disrupted production and shipping at the [Dishtronix / Ten Tec / Alpha RF Systems](#) factory in Dayton, Ohio. According to company owner Mike Dishop, N8WFF, a group of thieves last month destroyed the factory's underground electrical infrastructure in order to steal the copper cable. "The thieves extracted approximately 2000 feet of half-inch copper cable weighing approximately 2800 pounds," explained Dishop, "with an estimated salvage value of \$12,000 and a replacement cost of over \$35,000." Dishop told *The ARRL Letter* that power was restored on January 14, a month after the break-in, but explained that

“(t)his interruption has impacted the timing for everything we had on schedule by at least three months due to loss of time and capital.” He says the police investigation is ongoing.

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## **ARRL Board Approves Funding for Federal Advocacy; Creates New DXCC Single-Band Honor Roll; Elects Officers**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 22, 2026)**

A [Member Bulletin](#) emailed to all ARRL members included highlights from the Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors, held in Windsor, Connecticut, January 16 - 17, 2026. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, led the meeting and welcomed new Division Vice Directors including Carol Milazzo, KP4MD – Pacific; Marty Newingham, AG3I – Atlantic; Mel Parkes, NM7P – Rocky Mountain, and John Kitchens, NS6X – Southwestern.

The Board re-elected President Roderick; First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD. ARRL Foundation Treasurer Rick Niswander, K7GM, was elected as ARRL Second Vice President, succeeding Mike Ritz, W7VO, who held the position since 2024 and resigned on December 31, 2025. The Board also re-elected David Minster, NA2AA, as Chief Executive Officer and Secretary, and Diane Middleton, W2DLM, as Chief Financial Officer.

Board committees met the day before. The Administration & Finance Committee approved the 2026 plan, later approved unanimously by the Board, amending it to include additional funding for advocacy efforts in Washington, DC. These efforts include continuing work to advance the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act (bills H.R.1094 and S.459) through committee and toward final passage. ARRL launched a [nationwide grassroots campaign](#) last September aimed at securing passage of the bipartisan federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

Board members discussed the final report from the Election Review Committee that was formed at the Board’s Second Meeting in July 2022. They also heard a report from ARRL Foundation President David Norris, K5UZ, highlighting the Foundation’s philanthropic support of amateur radio. In 2025, the Foundation awarded 171 scholarships totaling approximately \$800,000, made possible through the generosity of the private foundation Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), individuals, and radio clubs. The Foundation also awarded 35 grants totaling \$60,580 and two Division Convention Grants totaling \$13,264.

Several other actions advanced by committees included the creation of a new single-band DXCC (DX Century Club) Honor Roll Award for qualifying operators. Commitments were also made to evaluate standardized reporting processes to streamline Section Traffic Manager and Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) monthly reporting, including broader adoption of the new Form 4 to improve the accuracy of reported volunteer hours.

The complete minutes of the 2026 Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be available soon on the ARRL website. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17 - 18, 2026. Read the complete [Member Bulletin](#).

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## **Conversation - When Modern Radios Become Obsolete**

**(The ARRL Contest Update for January 21, 2026)**

The performance, features, reliability, and convenience of the radios that we use today would just not be possible without embedded processors and software. What happens when a manufacturer no longer provides software updates, doesn't want to provide software updates, or when the manufacturer no longer exists? The answer can be complicated. Some believe the best possible scenario for those that want to continue to maintain and potentially improve end-of-life software is for the manufacturer to release the source code. This can be problematic for a number of reasons, such as those in this partial list:

- The software can depend on licensed libraries or code that cannot be released.
- The software contains intellectual property or trade secrets that are still being used in newer models of the equipment.
- The software can depend on tools (e.g. compilers) that are not available.
- Reviewing the source code for licensing issues and preparing for release is too expensive.
- Programming the firmware may involve trade secrets or cryptographic keys which cannot be disclosed.

A knowledgeable and enthusiastic user community can "route around" issues like these and independently develop software that extends the life of the hardware. For example, there are a number of open-source firmware projects for WiFi access point hardware. Some are popular enough that new hardware is being manufactured to specifically use the open-source software.

A few models of currently manufactured amateur-band UHF/VHF hand-held radios have found favor with a generally younger, technology-savvy community. Community-developed firmware is encouraging experimentation and has added features and functions that the manufacturer had never envisioned. The manufacturer did not encourage or specifically enable this, but is benefiting from the increased popularity of those models.

That's all for this time. Remember to send contesting-related stories, book reviews, tips, techniques, press releases, errata, schematics, club information, pictures, stories, blog links, and predictions to [contest-update@arrl.org](mailto:contest-update@arrl.org).

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## **Operating Tip - HF Contesting Guidelines**

**(The ARRL Contest Update for January 21, 2026)**

The ARRL Contest Advisory Committee released “[HF Contesting Guidelines](#)” in 2014. It was updated in 2022 when self-spotting was allowed for ARRL HF contests: “The goal of this document is to provide guidance and advice, especially for new contesters, and to encourage contest operation that advances the spirit and integrity of radiosporting. The materials presented herein are facts, opinions, and best practices, as compiled by seasoned contesters who are members of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. Information presented in the document is not mandatory and the individual contest operator is free to accept or reject its wisdom. In all cases, contest rules take precedence, so our collective advice is to always read, understand, and follow the contest rules in both the letter and spirit of the rules.”

There is an abundance of operating tips in that document, for contesters new and old, casual and serious.

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## **North Carolina Students Scheduled to Make Contact with the International Space Station**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 29, 2026)**

The winter weather has subsided and now 580 students at Conn Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, North Carolina, will participate in a conversation with an astronaut on board the International Space Station (ISS). Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has confirmed the contact, scheduled for Friday, January 30, 2026, just after 10:00 AM EST.

Radio communications will be provided by the [Raleigh Amateur Radio Society](#) under the leadership of John Brier, K4EB. “This contact could not have been possible without a \$14,000 grant from [Amateur Radio Digital Communications](#) (ARDC), said Brier. “The new equipment, which is in cases and movable, will allow us to provide communications for other schools in the area.” Brier added that club members are being trained to operate the gear and it can be loaned to other clubs for use in future ARISS contacts.

Friday’s contact will be with NASA astronaut and medical physicist Christopher Williams, KJ5GE. Twelve students will be asking questions, two in each grade level, from kindergarten through fifth grade. All 12 students will be wearing special T-shirts

designed by a second grader who won the school's T-shirt logo contest. Students also had a chance to create a logo for a keychain and there was a winner for each grade. Every student will get their grade level keychain to mark the ARISS event.

The event will be livestreamed at [youtube.com/live/tOj-SpbmA30?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/tOj-SpbmA30?feature=share) and [live.ariss.org](https://live.ariss.org).

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) program, the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, [ARRL](https://www.arrl.org), and AMSAT.

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## **Register Now for HamSCI 2026, Hosted by ARRL**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 29, 2026)**

ARRL will host the 9th annual Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) [Workshop](#) on March 14 – 15, 2026, with primary activities held at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in New Britain, Connecticut, and additional events at ARRL Headquarters in Newington. The international workshop brings together radio amateurs, scientists, educators, and students to explore how amateur radio serves as a practical tool for scientific research and citizen science.

Organized by the HamSCI community, the 2026 workshop carries the theme "Discovering Science Through Ham Radio." Presentations and discussions will highlight real-world research enabled by amateur radio, including ionospheric and space weather studies, meteor scatter propagation, radio-based sensing technologies, and the growing use of Personal Space Weather Stations. The program emphasizes how these efforts not only advance scientific understanding, but also directly inform and improve amateur radio operating and technology.

The weekend will feature oral and poster presentations, invited tutorials, and sessions designed to be accessible to both newcomers and experienced researchers. A Saturday evening banquet will include a keynote address by astrophysicist Marc Kuchner, NASA's Citizen Science Officer. Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour ARRL Headquarters, including the ARRL Laboratory, the W1HQ Radio Laboratory, and W1AW – the Hiram P. Maxim Memorial Station, with opportunities to get on the air.

Amateur radio operators, educators, students, engineers, and citizen scientists are all encouraged to participate. A [call for abstracts](#) for presentations and posters is open through February 1, 2026, and registration is now available. While the workshop is planned primarily as an in-person event, a virtual attendance option is expected to be

announced closer to the date. Additional details, including registration and abstract submission information, are available at [hamsci.org/hamsci2026](https://hamsci.org/hamsci2026).



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## **Amateur Radio in the News**

**(The ARRL Letter for January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025)**

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

["Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association to host inaugural Wintertide Disaster Outreach"](#) / Tehachapi News (California) January 5, 2026 -- *The Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["General Patton's chaplain to be honored at Afton ham-radio event"](#) / Pioneer Press (St. Paul, Minnesota) January 6, 2026 -- *The Stillwater Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Ham radio repeater now powered by solar"](#) / The Fredericksburg Standard (Texas) January 14, 2026 -- *The Fredericksburg Repeater Operators Group.*

["Ham radio hobby can be life-saving when disaster strikes"](#) / WTKR (Virginia) January 16, 2026 -- *The Radio Amateur Society of Norfolk is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Winter Field Day to put Upper Burrell ham radio club to the test in winter weather"](#) / TRIB LIVE (Pennsylvania) January 20, 2026 -- *The Skyview Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Peoria area amateur radio operators set to test worldwide communications in wintery exercise"](#) / WEEK (Illinois) January 21, 2026 -- *The Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Ham Radio Fort Myers Field Day | Testing emergency communications, 'When all else fails'"](#) / Lehigh Acres Citizen (Florida) January 21, 2026 -- *The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["Ham radios keep communications alive during disasters"](#) / The Sampson

Independent (North Carolina) January 22, 2026 -- *The Sampson County Amateur Radio Service is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

"Winter Field Day exercise becomes real-time training for ham radio operators" / Valley News Dispatch (Pennsylvania) January 26, 2026 -- *The Skyview Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

"Amateur radio works': Keeping communication open during extreme weather" / WCHS (West Virginia) January 28, 2026 -- *The West Virginia Emergency Management Division Amateur Radio Club.*

## Local Area Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

| Club Name                                   | When   | Where  | Contact   |
|---|--|--|---|
| Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC)           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm<br>License Testing at 5:30pm                            | Beardall Senior Center<br>800 S. Delaney,<br>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,<br>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<br>215 W. SR 436<br>Altamonte Springs                         | Rod Cavin, W4VBK<br><a href="mailto:w4vbk@arri.net">w4vbk@arri.net</a>            |
| Quarter Century Wireless Club (QCWA)        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  | Perkins Restaurant<br>701 E SR 434,<br>Winter Springs, FL<br>(1 blk east of HRO) | Roberta Cohen, WA2FRW at <a href="mailto:Wa2frw@aol.com">Wa2frw@aol.com</a>       |
| 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<br>(407) 921-9555   |
| Osceola County ARES                         | Last Monday of the month at 6:00pm   | Osceola County EOC,<br>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<br>Arrive around 6pm for some food and chat.<br>Meeting starts about 7:00pm | Perkins Restaurant<br>6425 University Blvd,<br>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<br><a href="mailto:kn4mdj@gmail.com">kn4mdj@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:info@RadioScouting.us">info@RadioScouting.us</a> |

## Weekly Radio Networks

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

## Propagation Beacons

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

| Frequency               | Power (Watts) | Antenna                    | Location              |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 144.277 MHz             | 20            | Horizontal Loop            | EL98HN                |
| 222.056 MHz             | 10            | Horizontal Loop            | EL98HN                |
| 432.307 MHz             | 12            | Horizontal Loop            | EL98HN                |
| 902.400 MHz             | 10            | Egg Beater                 | EL98HN                |
| 1296.030 MHz            | 25            | Egg Beater                 | EL98HN                |
| <del>2304.050 MHz</del> | <del>12</del> | <del>Alford Slot</del>     | <del>EM80MI (A)</del> |
| <del>3400.180 MHz</del> | <del>6</del>  | <del>Alford Slot</del>     | <del>EL98HN (B)</del> |
| <del>5760.120 MHz</del> | <del>8</del>  | <del>Wave Guide Slot</del> | <del>EL98HN (A)</del> |
| 10368.015 MHz           | 3             | Wave Guide Slot            | EL98HN                |
| 24192.035 MHz           | 0.150         | Wave Guide Slot            | EL98HN                |

(A) Off the Air for Rebuild  
 (B) Off the Air for Frequency Change  
 Antennas are horizontally polarized and reasonably omnidirectional  
 Information current as of November 10, 2025  
 For more information, contact the [Florida Weak Signal Society](#).



# OARC Membership Application

Make checks payable to:  
Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Mail to:  
Orlando Amateur Radio Club  
3208 E. Colonial Dr. PMB 168  
Orlando, FL 32803

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 \$5.00 for shipping & handling.

Shipping & Handling: [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Badges** \_\_\_\_\_ **S&H** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total** \_\_\_\_\_



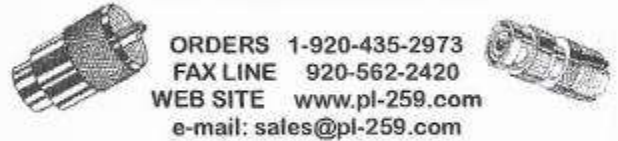
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