Orlando Amateur Radio Club

The Listening Post

Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams April 2026

President's Message

Hi everyone. Going to be brief this month, I got a late start writing this article and Ed is waiting for it to get the newsletter published. *(Continued* on Next Page)

OARC MEETING

Wednesday, April 1, 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

OARC Board of Directors
President: John Knott, N4JTK
Vice President: Michael Cauley, W4ORL
Treasurer: Ana Groe, KM4JVE
Secretary: Bob Nocero, W4KBW
Directors:
1. Bob Cumming, W2BZY
2. James Deuel, N0XIA
3. Ed Thralls, NE4H
4. Christy Moore, KN4MDM
5. Kevin Jackson, AA3XV
6. Aaron Morrison, AE4KO
7. TBD

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).

Editor: Ed Thralls NE4H.

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

Contributing to this edition: John Knott N4JTK, Michael Cauley, W4ORL, 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

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

So, we'll just briefly touch on some topics.

1. Elections: All eligible voters should have received their ballot via email last week. If you did not receive it, check your spam folder. If not there, then look at my email last week on how you can request the ballot be mailed to you again. If you can, whitelist no_reply@adoodle.org so that your ISP does not block it first. You must use the email that we have on file, which is what we would have used to send the ballot to you. Voting ends at 8pm on Wednesday April 1.

2. LMARS has reached out to us and asked if we would consider teaming with them again this year for Field Day. Combined Field Days have worked well in the past and the OARC Board has agreed to assist LMARS again. More details will be released soon, as soon as those details have been worked out. However, reserve Friday June 26 - Sunday June 28 for Field Day this year on your calendar.

3. Michael Cauley, W4ORL asked me to say a huge thank you to all 105 of you who came out to the picnic last weekend. Lots of great food, desserts and prizes. Congrats to Ed Evenson, KI4AGL, on winning the grand prize; an ICOM IC-7300MK2 donated by ICOM America.

   A huge thank you goes out to our vendors of HamCation® and donating a bunch of door prizes just for the picnic. Also, a huge thank you to everyone involved in organizing the food for the picnic, including the ones getting a little tanner around the big grill!

4. You don't want to miss this month's presentation at the OARC Meeting. Eric Nichols, KL7AJ will be presenting "Hints and Kinks with NanoVNA. If you recall, our own Kevin Jackson, AA3XV, did an introductory presentation a year ago at the Orange County ARES meeting that was open to anyone that wanted to attend. Think of this as a continuation of that presentation. If you have a NanoVNA and want to learn more, be sure to come out Wednesday night.

Our test session starts at 5:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center and then our meeting starts at 7:30pm, also at the Beardall Senior Center. Hope to see you there.

73,
John Knott, N4JTK

The Raymond Richard, W4RPR, HamCation Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Marilyn Phipps, KA4JKW, and Tom Phipps, KA4CSG, for being recognized as a team for The Raymond Richard, W4RPR, HamCation Volunteer of the Year.

Marilyn and Tom registered as RV Volunteers with Tuesday through Sunday as days they would volunteer. They agreed to volunteer for a four-hour shift each day from Wednesday through Sunday. They arrived on Tuesday to assist with the placing of POD signs at the power poles and to assist with reviewing administrative items for Wednesday's opening of the fairgrounds for RV parking.

Marilyn had used the Clover device at HamCation 2025 so there was little refresher training needed to get her up to speed for processing financial transactions in the RV/Tailgate tent. RV was short by about eight volunteers for HamCation 2026. Marilyn worked in the RV/Tailgate tent every day, Wednesday through Sunday. She arrived with a smile on her face, ready to assist RVers with their financial transactions. She volunteered additional hours each day without being asked. She logged 48.5 volunteer hours at the end of the show.

She oversaw all financial transactions for RV, which is typically a job for a committee member. She quickly learned the procedures to follow in the RV/Tailgate tent. As RVers checked in, she checked them off on paper, while alongside Rich Wilson, WR4RW, Assistant RV Chairman who was entering the RVers data real time into the computerized spreadsheet. Marilyn achieved a 100% accuracy rate. She made several suggestions on ways to improve the operation, many of which were implemented on the spot. She also ensured nearly every RV family was aware that they could pre-register for next year; this resulted in a record number of pre-registrations for the RV Team. In short, Marilyn acted more like an experienced committee member than a volunteer.

Tom also worked every day, Wednesday through Sunday at the South Gate and in front of the RV/Tailgate tent assisting RVers with their credentials to attend HamCation 2026. He answered questions from RVers, provided directions to various venues at HamCation and provided security services at the South Gate. As stated earlier, RV was short by about eight volunteers for HamCation 2026. Tom worked at the South Gate entrance to the fairgrounds and outside the RV/Tailgate tent every day, Wednesday through Sunday. He arrived with his personal safety vest, ready to assist RVers with their registration requirements once they arrived at the South Gate. He also assisted with the early morning rush of RVs on Wednesday, our busiest day. Tom provided suggestions to improve our operations; several of the suggestions have landed in the After-Action folder. Tom unselfishly volunteered

additional hours each day without being asked. He logged 42.0 volunteer hours at the end of the show.

Marilyn and Tom absolutely were critical to the success of RV this year. Both Marilyn and Tom jumped in without being asked, wherever they were needed, resulting in a very smooth and financially accurate year. The actions of Marilyn and Tom reflect great credit upon themselves, the RV operation, and HamCation®.

Our Club is Growing – New Members and Birthdays

(By Rick Peron, KM4KQQ, Membership Chairman)

Deena Cannistraci/
Melanie Cepero/
K4KIC Michael Decker/Tech
KR4JVQ Mahesh Babu Narra/General
KR4KIB Kristin Berry/Tech
W9SJY Vinette Ashford/Extra

Brandon Cannistraci/
Josh Noble/
KK4SIY Kevin Koenig/Tech
KR4KDQ Mark Watkins/Tech
W8WDW Del Rockwell/General
KZ4ZW Victor Genao/Extra

Birthdays this Month

AA4MM Leo Drescher
AC4TD Timothy Dwyer
K4RZO Jacob Baker
KJ4LMM Lidy Meijers
KO4ZKR Stephen Letter
KR4DAE Paula Hamilton
KR4JLF Michael Lambert
N2HBX Larry Monroe
VA3YMS Mark Samborski

W4RJB Robert Benson
W4KAQ Jorge Morales

AA4ZM Abigail Lentz
AD2BV John Butchko
KI4QVB Paul Berry
KO4HDB Daniel Gee
KR4BEQ David Lehman
KR4JLE Kendall Felder
KX4XF Derrick Moore
N9NHE Antony Kovilparambil X
W4OLE Bruce Carlson

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 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 4/30/2026
First Name Last Name/Call
Frank Gergits/KC9GNQ
Richard Mastrocola/KE2DBQ
Bob Nocero/W4KBW
Rick Peron/KM4KQQ
Charlie Santana/N4PPR
Frank Tagliani/KD4EZW
Edmund Thralls/NE4H
Dennis Voegler/WA4QMS

Expiring 5/30/2026
First Name Last Name/Call
Miriam Baez-Lopez/KR4EKA
Jeremy Bouse/KQ4AFY
Paula Hamilton/KR4DAE
Val Jacyno/AK4MM
Neil Monday/KR4COQ
Larry Schnaudigel/KN4LSY
Chris Wolf/KR4CKS
Roger Zubarik/KJ4LYY

Expiring 6/30/2026
First Name Last Name/Call
Beatriz Berriz-Castro/KR4EJZ
Robert Boyett/KJ4ECW
Robert Brooks/AG4RB
John Carter/KR4EHI
Trey Chandler III/KR4EJB
Cathy Cutler/KR4EIM
Dennis Lynch/KO4RID
Trista Lyons/
Kenneth Lyons/KN4MDJ
Henry Mercado/KR4EHL
Maria Monroe/KR4EIG
Larry Monroe/N2HBX
Joseph A Nixon/KR4CAN
Gabriel Palau/KR4EHZ
Jacob Rosene/KR4EJW
Yuan Sierra/KR4EOW
Jay Summet/KR4EIY
Gary Van Wagner/KZ4TQ

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*

GENERAL CLASS*

MaheshBabu Narra/KR4JVQ

TECHNICIAN CLASS **

Kristin Berry/KR4KIB

Michael Decker/KR4KIC

Joshua Nobel/KR4KHV

* 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 for the latest information.

The Volunteer Examiners for this session included:

AE4KO Aaron Morrison	K2KIQ Paul Kronenwettr	WY1E Michael Kooiman	N4UMB Joe Patti
NE4H Ed Thralls	W2BZY Bob Cumming	W4VBK Rod Cavin	WR4RW Rich Wilson
NT4K JC McCormick	W9TAX David Corral	WD4ORM George Markward	KT3S Den Ardinger

*** **FROM THE EDITOR**: There have been several changes at the FCC such as requiring that your FRN contact information be updated within 10 days of a change. You must use the Commission Registration System (CORES), not just the LICENSE MANAGER SYSEMS. If this is your first time attempting to use the CORES system, it can be challenging but not impossible. The articles near the end of this newsletter may be helpful as you meet the challenge.

How to Renew Your License Online

(QST Magazine October 2023, pp 62-63)

FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

(The ARRL Letter for March 21, 2024)

FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change

(The ARRL Letter for February 19, 2026)

OARC Meetings and Events 2026
Important Meeting Information

2026	
April 1, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Hints and Kinks with NanoVNA" by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ
May 6, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Introduction to Microcontrollers" by Glen Popiel, KW5GP
June 3, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "High Efficiency Mutli-band Wire Antenna Design" by Gary Baker, K7EMF
June 26 – 28, Friday - Sunday	Field Day Location: TBD
July 1, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Close Encounters of the Microcontroller Kind" by Glen Popiel, KW5GP
August 5, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Ask and Elmer" by OARC Board of Directors
September 2, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Off Grid Communication with LoRa and Meshtastic" by Tom Graham, WX8TOM
October 7, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) Antenna for EmComm" by Gary Spangenberg, KF4GGK

November 4, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "10 acres for Antennas Where my Wife Doesn't Live: Building a Remote Station" by Bruce Perens, K6BP
December 5, Saturday	Holiday Party

ASK AN ELMER

Where you can ask questions and get respectful answers.
Send your questions to: info@oarc.org

Hams in the Park – POTA : April 4, 2026

(by John-Paul Craig, KZ4JW)

- When: April 4, 2026
- Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm (Setup at 8:30)
- Where: Little Big Econ Trailhead, 951 Barr St, Oviedo, FL 32765
- POTA Parks: US-4630, US-4559

Purpose: To have a friendly club event where we can guide interested members in a POTA activation.

Details: I will provide my IC-7300 and antenna as one station capable of 10m-40m contacts. This year will be a little different. I will set up my station as the tutorial station where interested attendees can have a guided activation. We will group up and make our contacts together as well as go over what is needed regarding the exchange, logging, and any other details specific to working POTA.

You are welcome to bring your own equipment and operate independently, but we just ask that you try to spread out as far as possible, and leave a dedicated band available to the tutorial station so it can activate with little interference.

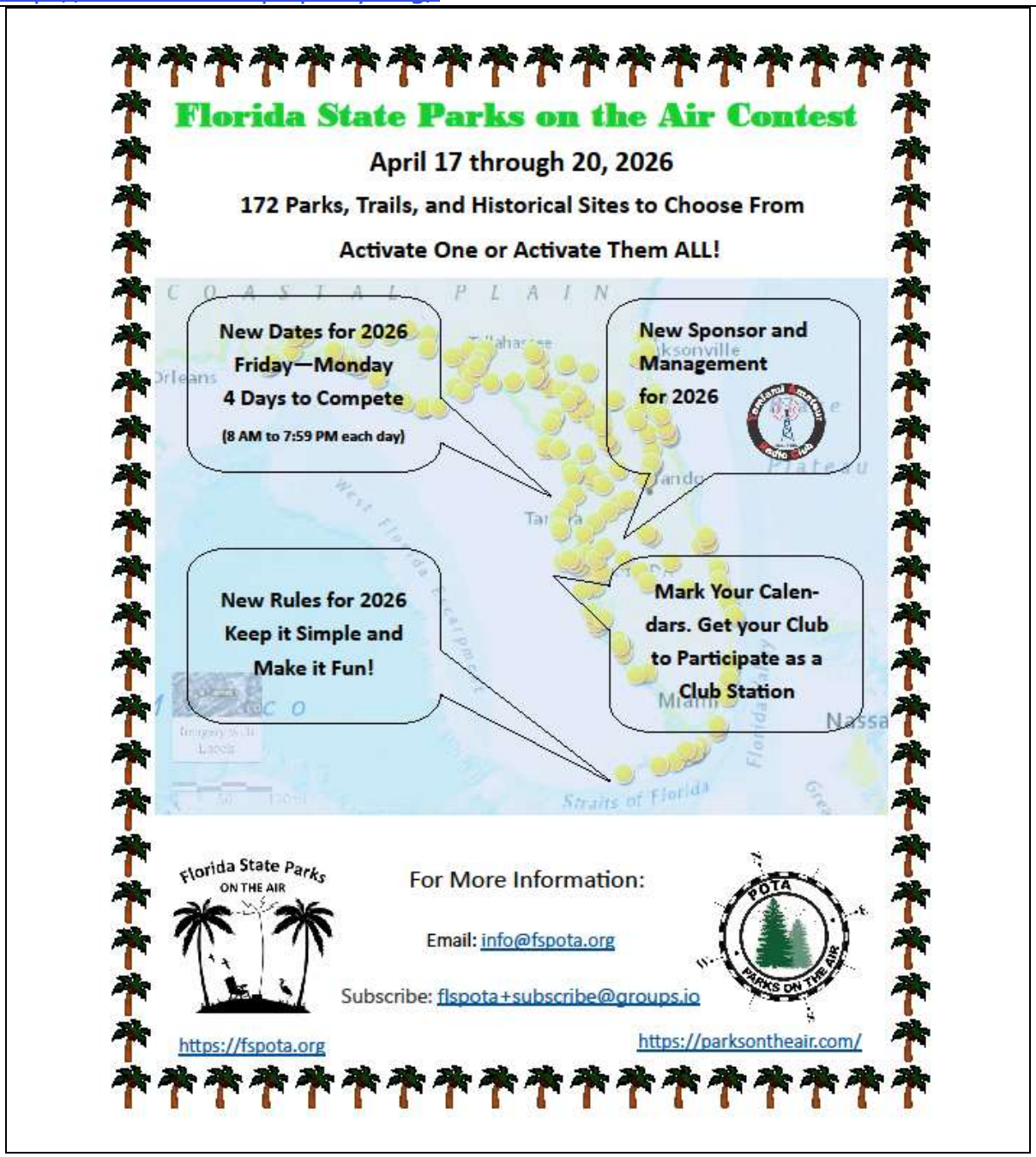
Details are here: https://lmars.org/annual-events/pota-in-the-park-hams-in-the-park

We look forward to seeing you there.

*** CQ FLORIDA HAMS ***

The 2026 Florida QSO Party will be held April 25 & 26. We sure hope you'll join us by activating your FL HF stations – home, club, school, mobile and expedition all welcomed. Let's make all 67 counties RADIO-ACTIVE!

Please check out the rules and further details at our Web Site: http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/



CLUBLOG Adds Volunteers

(The ARRL Letter for March 5, 2026)

CLUBLOG, a popular database used by DXers, is getting two new volunteers to help with the growing website. Tony Rider, G6GLP, and Colin Wilson, G3VCQ, have joined the project to help support its expanding worldwide user base.
CLUBLOG is an online service for amateur radio operators providing log analysis, DXCC tracking, DXpedition support tools, and online QSL requests. Currently, more than 132,000 call signs are registered in the system, contributing an extraordinary 1.3 billion QSOs for analysis. Every day, thousands of new logs are uploaded, reflecting constant activity from operators across every continent.

Rider and Wilson are joining a dedicated volunteer group that includes Alan Jubb, 5B4AHJ, who maintains CLUBLOG's highly detailed DXCC database; Marios Nicolaou, 5B4WN, author of the expedition tools and OQRS system used by DXpeditions worldwide; and helpdesk volunteer Dick Hattaway, W4PID.

"CLUBLOG has always been built by volunteers, and its success comes directly from people who care about helping the amateur radio community," said founder Michael Wells, G7VJR. "With such a large global audience of users, support is more important than ever. It's fantastic to welcome Tony and Colin to the team, as I know their friendly and helpful style will be so appreciated by our users. I'm immensely grateful for their willingness to contribute their time and expertise."

Indiana Hams Living Under HOAs Gain Antenna Protections

(The ARRL Letter for March 4, 2026)

The Indiana General Assembly has passed and Governor Mike Braun has signed a bill that adds protection for amateur radio operators who live in homeowner association (HOA) regulated housing developments.

Official language of the House Bill 1152 can be found at IGA | House Bill 1152 - Homeowners association matters.

Credit for adding the new language goes to Hunter Reed, KD9YLQ; Campbell Reed, KD9GEK, and State Senator Scott Alexander for their efforts writing and introducing the bill, and to the Muncie Area Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliated Club.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

Tennessee Approves Credentials for Amateur Radio Technician License

(The ARRL Letter for March 4, 2026)

The FCC amateur radio Technician Class license is now an approved industry credential in the State of Tennessee. The certification has been placed as *Tier 1-Recognized* and will be included on the 2026-27 Statewide Industry Credential List.

Stephanie Kelly, Director of Credentialing and Postsecondary Success; Division of Postsecondary, Workforce, CTE, and Military Readiness for the Tennessee Department of Education, said this certification will benefit students throughout the state. "Students across the state will have access to high-value, industry-recognized credentials that support strong postsecondary and workforce pathways."

The statewide industry credential program promotes credentials for grade K-12 students through a structured process that allows for the submission of credentials for review by various agencies. The program is designed to enhance postsecondary articulation and provide students with certification, credentials, and degrees in high-skilled and high-wage industries.

The initial application was submitted by Riverside High School Teacher Justin McClain, KQ4ANJ. "We sincerely look forward to the next steps in getting students licensed, on the air, and learning with all the benefits and applications in amateur radio," said McCLain.

W1AW 2026 Spring/Summer Operating Schedule

(ARRL Bulletin 5 , March 9, 2026)

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1300 UTC (9 AM EDT)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1300 UTC (9 AM EDT)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:
1400 UTC to 1945 UTC - (10 AM to 3:45 PM EDT)

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:
2000 UTC (4 PM EDT) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
2000 " " CWs Tue, Thu
2100 " (5 PM EDT) CWb Daily

2200 " (6 PM EDT) DIGITAL Daily
2300 " (7 PM EDT) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri
2300 " " CWf Tue, Thu
0000 " (8 PM EDT) CWb Daily
0100 " (9 PM EDT) DIGITAL Daily
0145 " (9:45 PM EDT) VOICE Daily
0200 " (10 PM EDT) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
0200 " " CWs Tue, Thu
0300 " (11 PM EDT) CWb Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0775 21.0675 28.0675 50.350 147.555
DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 50.350 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 50.350 147.555

Notes:
CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13, and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13, and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs, and CW bulletins.

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31, and MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM EDT), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0000 UTC (8 PM EDT) Thursdays and 0000 UTC (8 PM EDT) Fridays.

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices and CW/digital/phone bulletins are available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server named "W1AWBDCT." The monthly W1AW Qualifying Runs are presented here as well. The CW/digital/phone audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with W1AW's regular transmission schedule.

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please direct any questions or comments to w1aw@arrl.org.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

FCC licensed amateurs may operate the station from 1400 UTC to 1945 UTC (10 AM to 3:45 PM EDT) Monday through Friday. Be sure to bring a reference copy of your current FCC amateur radio license.

The weekly W1AW and monthly West Coast Qualifying Runs are sent on the normal CW frequencies used for both code practice and bulletin transmissions.

Please note that a W1AW Qualifying Run replaces a regularly scheduled code practice transmission on any particular day and time.

The complete W1AW Operating Schedule may be found on page 28 in the March 2026 issue of QST or on the web at www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule.

Start Planning for ARRL Field Day 2026

(The ARRL Letter for March 12, 2026)

It's not too early to gear up and get ready for ARRL Field Day! Field Day 2026 takes place June 27 – 28 and will bring together more than 30,000 amateur radio operators for one of the most popular on-the-air events in the US and Canada.

This year's Field Day theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Combined with the ARRL Year of the Club, it provides the perfect opportunity for radio clubs to set up stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill, and service to our communities and our nation.

All of the information you need to get started can be found on the Field Day web page, including how to join the ARRL Field Day Facebook Group, where you can share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day.
(Editor's Note: More information for our local Field Day plans will be discussed at the OARC meeting over the next couple of months.)

The overall objective for Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-,15- and 10-meter HF bands, as well as all bands above 50 MHz, and to learn to operate in less than optimal conditions. Many clubs choose to set up in camp-style fashion with portable equipment, temporary antennas, and off-grid power sources.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2 (North and South America). DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to

submit entries. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

Also check out the Field Day site locator page to help find participating stations near you.
As an added incentive for anyone participating in ARRL's yearlong America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award, contacts made with ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs all year, including during Field Day, will count toward your America250 WAS Affiliated Club Endorsement. Check out those details at **www.arrl.org/america250-was**.

For more information about ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org/field-day.

Space Weather

(Where the Solar Wind blows protons instead of hail stones, X-rays instead of lightning bolts, and geomagnetic waves instead of wind gusts.
By Andy Gausz, KG4QCD)

What is Space Weather?

Space Weather is not like the weather in our atmosphere that we can see and feel. We don't sense a change in its temperature or feel its wind blowing through our hair. There are no wet rain or pretty snowflakes that fall from the sky. It doesn't threaten us with a thunderstorm, tornado or a hurricane.

Space Weather nonetheless produces a variety of storms in the Heliosphere, which is the space between the sun and the planets in our solar system. Our Earth orbits inside our sun's heliosphere where the Solar Wind blows constantly at various speeds and delivers the Sun's energies to us. The energy we mostly recognize coming from the sun is light. But there are other types of energy flying along in the solar wind, like geomagnetic forces, protons and electrons, X-rays, and plasmas which are super-hot clouds of ions.

When the solar wind blows these kinds of things and the Earth happens to be in the way, they slam into our Earth's Magnetosphere. The Magnetosphere is an area that surrounds the Earth and is represented by lines of magnetic force extending from the North Pole to our South Pole. It forms a shield that protects us from the awesome energies produced by the Sun that flow in the Solar Wind. Most of the time. Our Magnetosphere reacts to the energies flowing in the Solar Wind in a variety of ways. Most of the time this is a "protective" reaction and prevents damage to the Earth and its inhabitants. Unfortunately, there are exceptions to this protective mechanism, and we get caught in a Space Weather Storm that does cause damage.

Causes and Effects

Now let me warn you… Space Weather is based on the science of Heliophysics, which is the study of our Sun. It is an "infant science" in that we haven't had the instruments nor the time to study our Sun until recently. Our Sun is a common, ordinary Star, that is about half-way through its 10-billion-year lifespan. Scientists call this a "Main Stream Star" differentiating it from a newborn or baby star, or a star that is in its dying time. That's the good news. We've got another 5 billion years to go. The bad news is this means; out of the 5 billion years our Sun has been doing its thing in the Main Stream of things stars do, we have only been around to study it for about the last 200 years or so. 200 years out of 5 billion is hardly a random sample of data collected for evaluation. So don't expect Scientists to have all the answers, or even a reliable degree of consistency to the answers they do have. The bottom line is anything can happen, at any time. The more (and longer) we keep observing, measuring and theorizing, the more accurate and predictive we can become. Predicting atmospheric weather is hard enough. For now, Space Weather predictions are difficult and uncertain although we're getting better at it thanks to technology. Ironically, Space Weather actually threatens to destroy the tools and technology we use to study it.

It's All About the Sun

Like all stars in the main sequence of their life, Our Sun is a nuclear reactor, held together by its gravity. Its gravity is so strong that it crushes hydrogen atoms together to form helium atoms in a fusion process operating at 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. The process releases huge amounts of energy in the form of X-rays and releases sub-atomic particles like protons and electrons into the Heliosphere. All goes well most of the time. But every 11 years or so, the Sun begins a cycle when this fusion reaction …well… it burps! A burp is a distortion in the magnetic field surrounding the Sun. It puckers outwards, and we can actually see these burps because they represent a cooling of the Suns surface. We call these cold spot burps, Sunspots. And we count them. Years go by when we don't see any Sunspots. We call this period the Solar Minimum. As time goes by, Sunspots start showing up to the tune of 250 or more in a year. We call this period the Solar Maximum. It takes about 11 years to go from one Solar Minimum to the next Solar Minimum, known as a Solar Cycle. In June 2025 we hit the Solar Maximum for this current Solar Cycle (Number 25). We are now on the downhill slide heading for a Solar Minimum, where we will begin Solar Cycle 26.

Out! Dang Spot… Radio Blackouts

Sunspots are both causes of Space Weather storms, and very often preceded by much stronger types of Space Weather storms. So, when we see a Sunspot, we know we're in for a storm that is going to flow along the Solar Wind, and possibly strike

Earth's Magnetosphere. We measure the strength of the Sunspot by measuring the "brightness" of X-ray radiation created by the Sunspot. If the storm remains a humble Sunspot, the type of Space Weather storm we are most likely to get is called a Radio Blackout.

But wait a minute. Aren't Sunspots treasured if not revered by Amateur Radio Operators? Don't we hope for Sunspots because they create ideal "skip" conditions for long-range radio contacts? They certainly do, at least for the 10, 12 and 15-meter bands. But for the lower HF frequencies these same Sunspots create havoc. In fact, they can make radio communication and navigation signals in the HF bands impossible.

These Blackouts can last for minutes, maybe hours, and sometimes days on end. Great for 10-meter DX'ing. Horrible for 80-meter sideband. Forget about radio navigation for maritime and en route aviators. Positioning signals for low earth orbit satellites are also disrupted.

There is an algorithm used to predict the amount of time that could elapse between loss of positioning signals to low earth orbit satellites and the beginning of them crashing into each other. It's called the "Crash Clock." In 2018 the Crash Clock predicted 121 days would elapse between loss of navigation radio signals and a collision. In 2025, it's 2.8 days. Today there are over 12,000 low earth orbit satellites and other pieces of space junk that weren't there 7 years ago. Some of these satellites are used to collect data we use to recognize, measure and predict Space Weather!

X-rays emitted by Sunspots are measured by instruments in GOES satellites operated by the Space Weather Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Warnings are issued at each of 5 stages of X-Ray flux ranging from R1 (Minor) to R5 (Extreme). We average about 2000 Sunspots per Solar Cycle.

Ions for Hail Stones – Solar Radiation Storms

Large Sunspots, especially those with abnormal physical characteristics can produce Solar Flares, which contain protons (ions) that are carried outward from the sun by the Solar Wind. If they strike the Earth's magnetosphere, we can measure the strength of their impact in Mega Volts. The Space Weather Prediction Center issues warnings of solar radiation storms at any of five levels, S1 for Minor through S5 for Extreme. Solar radiation storms are dangerous because they not only cause radio blackouts, but also interfere with satellite's tracking, control and cause damage to their solar panels. They also cause high radiation exposure to passengers and crew members of aircraft that are flying at high altitudes.

An interesting type of solar radiation storm called a "Space Weather Hurricane" is

created when a concentration of high energy protons impact the magnetosphere at the site of one of the Earth's poles. A swirl of geomagnetic energy spins up which delivers a large dose of disruption in the Earth's magnetic field. We can't see these Space Weather Hurricanes coming. There is no warning.

Geomagnetic Storms

The most common type of Space Weather Storm is basically a distortion in the Earth's Magnetosphere caused by an impact of intense energy traveling along in the Solar Wind. They are rated in terms of their "Kp" value, 1 to 9. Scientists group Kp values together into clumps and rate these storm intensities from G1 (Kp 1 to 5), G2 (Kp 6), and so on up to G5 (Kp 9). Anything G4 (Kp 8) or above is severe to extreme. Just about any disruption in the sun can cause a Geomagnetic Storm to some degree. Sunspots, Solar Flares, and/or Coronal Mass Ejections are all probable causes. These storms threaten the manmade power grid on Earth which we use to distribute electricity. They might cause the power grid to experience power fluctuations or completely go down. History is choked with tales of problems with the power grid, pipelines, and cable problems are all caused by Geomagnetic Storms. This is the most threatening type of storm in Space Weather. Loss of satellite control and remote control of drone activity are also of concern. We get very little notice (if any) that they are coming, and there is little we are doing to prevent their effects.

The Beauty of It All - Auroras

All of these storms can and usually do cause intensification in the polar auroras, which we enjoy as colorful curtains of light hanging in the night skies. If you can see an aurora in the Florida sky, you had best hoped you had unplugged your radio and antennas. For the records, that would be a storm with a G-4 or above intensity. Not IF, But WHEN…

I hate being held captive by Chicken Little. The imposed threat of something that seems to never happen but always might creates an insatiable desire for a fried chicken dinner. But that is exactly the position we are in when it comes to dealing with Space Weather. This is because we are dealing with astronomical measures of time and space. The distance between the Sun and Earth is about 93 million miles. But light can travel that distance in just over 8 minutes! The contrast is mind boggling. We just don't live an everyday life in those kinds of times and distances. So, what can we do?

Prevention is the best medicine for Space Weather Storms, not unlike preparing for an atmospheric storm like a Hurricane. We just don't have the same amount of warning the storm is coming. Here are a few ideas.

- Monitor Space Weather alerts issued by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction

Center. Just like you check the weather forecast every day, check the Space Weather forecast every day at: spaceweather.com

- Be ready to protect your HT from an electromagnetic impulse that is generated by a Space Weather storm. Either purchase or construct a Faraday insulated container and keep it close at hand. After the storm you will be able to communicate with other Hams who have also "hardened" their HT's.

-Don't sweat the small stuff, Hold it, hold it, hold it… for the big one. My experience is that a constant barrage of explanations of Space Weather creates a kind of frantic. My blood pressure goes up and stays up, and I'm constantly looking up at the sky for an out-of-control satellite to come screaming down. It's OK to study and learn about Space Weather, and to seek a daily prediction of Kp values, but a habitual soap opera of "What If's" can become just as unhealthy as an endless scroll through TIC TOC shorts.

Remember, we are living in a tiny, teeny bit of another 5 billion years to go. No need to rush it.

Climbing High and Never Looking Back

(The ARRL Letter for March 12, 2026)

For tower climber Denny Todd, KC7RVK, there is only one required tool...fear!

Denny Todd, KC7RVK, and Lynn Leighton, KG7PTC, at the 2026 NATE convention in Las Vegas. [Photo used with permission of Craig Lekutis, Publisher, Wireless Estimator]

Todd, now 86 years old, has been climbing towers for 70 years. His first was in South Dakota when he was 16, to put up an antenna so residents could receive stations from Omaha, Nebraska, 90 miles away.

His climbing career was influenced by an interest in science and radio. His father was an engineer at a local AM station. Once he was up in the air, Denny never looked back...or down!

"The fear, to me, meant I had to do everything, take every precaution, to climb safely," said Todd. He also was involved in helicopter-assisted work on high towers. "You climb up a section of tower while a chopper flies in with either another section or an antenna that needs to be attached," said Todd. "It's a little scary trying to insert the bolts and tighten the nuts at the same time the aircraft is hovering above!"

In 1962, after earning an associate degree in electrical engineering from Central Technical Institute and his FCC First Class Radiotelephone license, Todd began working for South Dakota Public Television and, in 1966, became the assistant engineering director.

For the past 25 years, he has worked with his partner, Lynn Leighton, KG7PTC, also an accomplished tower climber and amateur radio operator.

Last month, Todd and Leighton went to Las Vegas for the convention of the National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE), of which Todd was a founding member in 1995. NATE is a non-profit trade association dedicated to providing a unified voice for companies in the diverse tower and communications infrastructure construction, service, and maintenance industries.

Todd tried to retire in 1978 but that didn't work. So, when does he plan to stop climbing? "When I lay down for my 'dirt nap,' " he chuckled.

Dayton Hamvention 2026 Award Winners Announced

(The ARRL Letter for March 12, 2026)

Dayton Hamvention® has announced its 2026 Awards.

Technical Achievement Award: Robert Famiglio, K3RF

Robert B. "Bob" Famiglio, K3RF, has spent almost 60 years in amateur radio, blending technical expertise, legal knowledge, and leadership in emergency communications. Licensed at age 13, Famiglio later earned a BSE in electrical engineering and a doctorate in law. For more than 40 years he has served as volunteer counsel, advising hams on PRB-1 matters, zoning and antenna ordinances, RFI enforcement, and club governance. His technical understanding of station engineering and interference resolution has informed effective legal strategies and regulatory comments.

Famiglio served in many ARRL leadership roles, including EPA Section Manager, Atlantic Division Vice Director, and later Director. He also served several terms as Vice President & General Counsel of the Radio Club of America and functioned as corporate counsel for the board.

In emergency communications, he served as Amateur Radio Emergency Service® District Emergency Coordinator for Greater Philadelphia, supporting regional response agencies by applying technical expertise, message handling skills, and interoperability between amateur and public safety systems. His formal training as a professional firefighter enhances his ability to align ham radio technology with operational needs of served agencies.

A long-time mentor, Famiglio supports on-air training nets and club programs stressing technical competence, regulatory literacy, and readiness for public service. He believes that amateur radio's core value lies in the skills, service, and technical capability of operators, not merely spectrum access, and he has worked to translate

complex technical issues—spectrum coexistence, interference mitigation, and regulatory compliance—into clear, actionable recommendations for policymakers. His blend of engineering, legal acumen, and emergency response experience has encouraged continuous training, lowered barriers to participation, and inspired new generations of ham radio operators.

Amateur of the Year Award: Dr. Jose "Otis" Vicens, NP4G

Dr. Jose "Otis" Vicens, NP4G, was born and raised in Humacao, Puerto Rico. He was first licensed at the age of 16 and is the only amateur radio operator in his family.

Vicens studied biology at Purdue University, where he became active with the W9YB Purdue University Amateur Radio Club. He graduated from the University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine and completed a specialty program in Pediatric Dentistry at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. In 2008, Vicens returned to his hometown of Humacao to begin practicing orthodontics.

One of his early memories of service through amateur radio was in 1998, when Vicens helped provide communications support in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Georges. During the 2017 Puerto Rico hurricane disasters, he helped coordinate amateur radio emergency communications across eastern Puerto Rico.

Vicens recalled attending the DX Forum at Dayton Hamvention, where presentations on major DXpeditions inspired him to someday be a part of future adventures. He has now participated in many DXpeditions from all over the world including Bouvet Island (3Y) and most recently as Team Leader for KP5/NP3VI, the Desecheo Island DXpedition of 2026.

He is a past President of the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL), and is currently President of the International DX Association (INDEXA).

Special Achievement Award: Martha Fell, N3QBE, and Joe Fell, W3GMS

Martha and Joe Fell's journey began in 1966 when Joe earned his Novice license (WN3GMS) at the age of fourteen. Shortly thereafter, he met Harry I. Davis, W3FDY (SK), who mentored him for four years. Harry taught him to think critically, design circuits, and execute projects with precision. His guidance was life-changing, and Joe pledged to honor his request to give back to others just as Harry had done for him.

To fulfill this promise, Joe chose to retire at age 56, following a 34-year corporate career and the successful launch of his own company. The success of this mission is thanks to his wife, Martha, whose dedication to overseeing administration and logistics has greatly benefited their students.

Their program's reach has grown significantly over the decades. In 1976, Joe designed and built a repeater for his mentor's radio site which remains operational 50 years later, serving a group of approximately 85 operators. Their weekly technical net has become a primary resource for both new and seasoned amateurs, including many professional electrical engineers.

Today, Martha and Joe Fell mentor students of all ages and interests. While their first student is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at MIT, their youngest started at just eight years old.

Club of the Year: Long Island CW Club

Long Island CW Club (LICW) is an online Morse code training community built to help hams become confident and proficient CW operators. The club emphasizes high standards alongside a welcoming culture, focusing on teaching practical operational skills while fostering mutual respect and a spirit of learning for fun.

LICW offers structured classes from beginner through advanced, a wide range of topical forums and practice resources that help students move from "copying characters" to true conversational flow.

Instructors are volunteers who remember what it felt like to be new, and who coach students through plateaus with clear, effective teaching methods, encouragement, and accountability.

LICW includes strong participation and leadership across generations, including more than 400 women who serve as instructors and club leaders, along with programs that support youth and hams with disabilities. LICW is a community where people show up for each other, celebrate progress, and share the joy of CW on the air.

Read the complete 2026 Hamvention Awards announcement at hamvention.org/event-details/awards.

The 2026 Dayton Hamvention® will be held Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17, 2026, at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center, 210 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio

Growing an Army of Young Hams in New York

(The ARRL Letter for March 19, 2026)

A high school teacher in New York City, with help from the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI), has successfully licensed nearly 700 students in the past two years as part of a wide-ranging program that is teaching students in two schools that radio today is a central part of just about everything!

On March 12, ARRL Director of Education and Learning Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson, N2XDD, traveled to Staten Island Technical High School to help lead teacher Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, administer license exams to 143 students, resulting in 131 new hams and 14 upgrades. According to Goodgame, Henriques's formula for success is "getting kids engaged, with lots of hands-on stuff." He says everything is project-based and there is lots of crossover to the school's robotics program. "Now," adds Goodgame, "he's working with a teacher at the adjacent McKee High School, which is a vocational high school, and the students are working together on a solar car program." Wilson noted that he's very impressed to see "the vocational kids and the technical kids working together, teaching each other their respective skills."

Goodgame says Staten Island Technical High School is the donor-funded Teachers Institute's first "model school," which makes it eligible for additional resources and equipment. He notes that the school was the site of a TI session last year and will host another this year. Goodgame adds that Henriques has completed two TI modules and is now an institute instructor, as well as being a facilitator for Math for America and co-developer of a 9-week course for teachers on "How to Use Amateur Radio in the Classroom."

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) is Seeking Net Control Operators

(The ARRL Letter for March 19, 2026)

Among the criteria sought from operators and stations are those who are located in the central and western regions of the US, Canada, Central America, and the Caribbean, and available for overnight operations (midnight to 7:30 AM Eastern Time). Bilingual operators (Spanish and English or French/Creole and English) are especially encouraged to apply.

Because net control stations must manage stations across a wide geographic area during difficult propagation conditions, having a well-equipped amateur station is highly beneficial: a tower-mounted beam antenna for 20 meters; reliable 20- and 40-meter HF capability; amplifier capability for strong, consistent signals; reliable internet connectivity, as net control stations coordinate through the HWN internal chat system during activations; and operators willing to make themselves available when hurricanes threaten.

As HWN marks 62 hurricane seasons of watching, preparing, and activating whenever hurricanes threaten land in the Atlantic Basin, it is preparing for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, which forecasters suggest could once again be an above-average season. Amateur radio operators interested in training to become a net control

operator for the Hurricane Watch Net can learn more by visiting **hwn.org/about-us/ncs_info.html**, on the net's website.

Solar Eclipses: What the Bands Revealed...

(The ARRL Letter for March 26, 2026)

What effect does a solar eclipse have on HF propagation? That was the basic question posed by researchers enlisting ham radio operators' help during three Solar Eclipse QSO Parties in the last 10 years. The results of that research were presented at the 2026 HamSCI Workshop, held earlier this month in Connecticut and hosted by ARRL.

Data was collected based on spots on the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN), WSPRNet, and PSKReporter during total solar eclipses in 2017 and 2024, as well as an annular (partial) eclipse in 2023. In the 2024 eclipse, there was a drop in the number of contacts on 21 MHz as the eclipse neared totality, while there was an increase in the number of QSOs recorded on 14 MHz. The 30-meter band opened earlier than usual; and 40 meters opened earlier than usual for transatlantic contacts, faded out, and then opened up again.
Researcher Kuldeep Pandey of the New Jersey Institute of Technology concluded that effects of the eclipse crossed over with the sunset terminator, accounting for the second opening on 40. Effects on 80 and 160 meters were unclear, as only a few stations were active on those bands during the eclipse. It was also noted that there were differences in results between 2017 and 2024, attributed to different phases of Solar Cycle 25 (2017 was relatively early in the cycle; 2024 was at its peak).

A Unique Learning Experience for Amateur Radio

(The ARRL Letter for March 26, 2026)

Many current amateur radio operators were attracted to the hobby by the "aromas" emanating from their Elmer's ham shack, from the slight smell of dust burning on red-hot final tubes, to the more pleasant smell of a hot soldering iron.

For the past five years, the Andrew Johnson Amateur Radio Club's Wednesday Nights Technology program, at the Greene County Makerspace in Greeneville, Tennessee, has been helping students explore a unique introduction to amateur radio....with a little solder smoke!

Recently, the students completed a two-month build project for the SolderSmoke Direct Conversion Receivers Challenge. It's one of the many projects made possible by an ARRL grant. The students, some whom are not yet licensed, took on a challenge to individually construct, solder, test, and then troubleshoot their receivers, all the while learning about the basics of a radio receiver and the related test questions associated with gaining an amateur radio license.

ARRL member Steven Bible, N7HPR, has been the lead trainer and wrote the narrative for the project.

"The ARRL grant allowed us to purchase equipment and projects so we could create a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum," said Bible. "Over the past three years, upwards of two dozen students have participated in the program and 50% have received their amateur licenses."

Bible added there was often a "WOW" moment when the students realized what they could accomplish on their own time at their own pace.

Using the narrative that Bible wrote, he now wants to expand and begin teaching the trainers how to administer the program to create more opportunities for youngsters and older adults as well. "This spider-like approach will allow for more opportunities to understand the technology."

Bible also said there are more opportunities at the nearby Walters State Community College and their HAMtastic Radio Technology Camps set for June 2026.

Sci-Tech ARS Girl Scouts "First Contact" Event

(The ARRL Letter for March 26, 2026)

The Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society (STARS) in Natick, Massachusetts, recently hosted a Girl Scout troop from Melrose, Massachusetts, for a "First Contact" opportunity to learn about amateur radio. New England Sci-Tech is a non-profit STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education center and maker space dedicated to project-based, hands-on learning for youth and families across New England.

The instructors from Sci-Tech included Barbara Irby, KC1KGS; Jocelyn (waiting to take her test); Seth Kendall, KC1PZY; Max Kendall, WØMXX; Brad Moore, KC1TUY; Zachary Sherman, KC1NXK; and lead organizer and instructor Bob Phinney, K5TEC.

In the first of many activities, the scouts got to hold a meteorite from an asteroid and one from the moon, discuss earth-to-space communications, then watch a three-minute ARRL video about ham radio.

Barbara Irby then talked about ways girls can get involved with ham radio and become a young lady (YL) licensed amateur operator. Jocelyn, a young student waiting to take her license exam, gave an insightful and encouraging talk about her journey to get a radio license with suggestions to the scouts for success.

Then it was on to a two-minute video about the workshop where ham radio is highlighted with high-altitude weather balloon launches, followed by a foxhunt with

Seth Kendall, who showed off his homemade Yagi antenna that helped the girls find the hidden transmitter.

The final activities had the scouts in the radio room where they listened to contacts made with Astronaut Bob Hines on the International Space Station (ISS). Then the girls lined up at the HF station where they all got to make a contact with a YL named Jessica James, KJ5NSH, in Oklahoma.

"Events like this are vitally important for the hobby," said ARRL New England Division Vice Director Phil Temples, K9HI. "To be able to reach out to young girls and put them in contact with mentors who are licensed amateur radio operators, is just a great opportunity."

STARS Secretary and lead organizer Bob Phinney, K5TEC, noted that at the end of the event, the scouts each got an ARRL "First Contact Award" certificate. They were also thrilled to receive an ARRL radio patch and a Sci-Tech logo patch. Fun was had by all...and lots of learning, too.

Phinney also encourages scout leaders to get their troops involved in amateur radio because it can become a lifetime of activities and lead to a lifelong hobby.

For more information and activities visit New England Sci-Tech.

Visit the ARRL website for more information about the ARRL Radio and Wireless Technology Patch Program and for Amateur Radio and Scouting resources.

FCC Warns Licensee on Out-of-Band Transmissions

(The ARRL Letter for March 26, 2026)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has responded to a complaint involving a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, amateur for operating outside the privileges of his Technician Class license and causing interference to local emergency service communications by transmitting on a public service frequency, 470.4375 MHz.

According to a letter released by the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, agents investigating an interference complaint from Allegheny County Emergency Services determined that the interfering signal originated from the residence of David Knudtson, KD3ASC, who also holds a General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) license, WSDQ885. The letter states that Knudtson gave the agents a BTech UV-Pro handheld which had been programmed to monitor the county emergency services frequency. Agents determined that its "Audio Relay"

feature had been activated, turning the HT "into a simplex repeater that was retransmitting the Allegheny County channel."

The letter continues that Knudtson, who is a relatively new amateur licensee, surrendered the radio to the agents, who then "verified that the interference to the Allegheny County system had ceased." The letter also notes that Knudtson's BTech radio was certified as a Part 90 (private land mobile radio) device and that he was not licensed to transmit on the emergency services frequency.

Knudtson was warned that unauthorized operation and its associated harmful interference must not resume. He was given 10 days from the date of the March 25 letter to respond with a description of the steps he is taking to avoid a repeat violation.

Amateurs are reminded to exercise care when programming non-amateur frequencies into their VHF/UHF radios, and to ensure that transmitting on those frequencies is disabled.

Amateur Radio in the News

(The ARRL Letter for March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026)

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

"San Mateo Radio Club signals community with a wide range of ham radio experience" / The Daily Journal (California) February 26, 2026 -- *The San Mateo Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club*.

"Mohawk Amateur Radio Club – Gardner Magazine Reports" / Gardner Magazine (Massachusetts) March 3, 2026 -- *The Mohawk Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club*

"Local Amateur Radio Club to hold 'Introduction to Ham Radio' presentation March 15" / The Highland Press (Ohio) March 4, 2025 -- Highland Amateur Radio Association.

"Cleveland Heights elementary students reach around the world in amateur radio competition" / WKYC (Ohio) March 4, 2026 -- Saint Ann School's Amateur Radio Club.

"We the People | The role of the radio: ham operators" / WSAZ (West Virigina) March 4, 2026 -- The Museum of Radio and Technology.

"Radio club to hold Intro to Ham Radio presentation" / The Times - Gazette (Ohio) March 4, 2026 -- The Highland Amateur Radio Association.

"Sussex County Emergency Management Partners with Rehoboth Beach Hotel to Host Amateur Radio Equipment" / WGMD Radio (Delaware) March 9, 2026 -- Sussex County AuxComm.

"Amateur radio group gets new emergency coordinator" / The Miner Newspapers (Washington) March 6, 2026 -- Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)®.

"Introduction to Amateur Radio - Week 6 (Communicating with other HAMs)" / OU Daily March 14, 2026 (Oklahoma) -- South Canadian Amateur Radio Society.

"Roosevelt accepts radio tower" / The Eastern New Mexico News (New Mexico) March 10, 2926 -- *The Greyhound Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club*.

"Hamwaves of History event set for March 17-19" / Pine Island Eagle (Florida) March 12, 2026 -- *The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club*.

"Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association nominated for KGET-TV17 'Best of' Awards" / KGET TV (California) March 16, 2026 -- *The Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club*.

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

Rick Peron/KM4KQQ - 309/530-4264 or KM4KQQ@phesinc.net. Can be picked up at any meeting (let me know to bring them) or we can set up a meeting in Orlando metro area.

Item #1: SamLex Power Supply SEC-1235M
$165 (list $220)
Desktop Switching Power Supply, Dual Meters, Output: 13.8 VDC, 30 A

Item #2: West Mountain Radio Super PWRgate PG40s
$105.00 (list $140)
12 volt backup power transferring system rated at 40 amperes continuous from either a Power Supply or a Battery (not for LiFePO4).

Item#3: RigBlaster Plug and Play data jack
$90.00 (list $120)
Plug n play sound card interface for digital modes. Includes DVD instructions/programming software.

Item#4: PreppComm MMX Multi-band Morse Code Transceiver
$435.00 (list $597)

QRP multi-band capable transceiver. It has the MMX bundle which is the tri-band MMX plus

Item #5: Comet GP6 Antenna
$128 (list $170)
VHF/UHF Dual Band Base Antenna

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

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

Item #1: (Description)
Asking price: $
additional comments
Item #2: (Description)
Asking price: $
additional comments

Or

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

EXAMPLE:

Ima Ham, WX4XYZ, Ham@gmail.com

Item#1: Looking for hand microphone for Kenwood TS-520 transceiver
Willing to pay up to $25, including shipping

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

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

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

Local Area Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

Club Name	When	Where	Contact
Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC)	1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm License Testing at 5:30pm	Beardall Senior Center 800 S. Delaney, Orlando, FL	Bob Nocero, W4KBW at info@oarc.org

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

Weekly Radio Networks

Mon @ 19:15	147.285 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
~~2304.050 MHz~~	~~12~~	~~Alford Slot~~	~~EM80MI~~ (A)
~~3400.180 MHz~~	~~6~~	~~Alford Slot~~	~~EL98HN~~ (B)
~~5760.120 MHz~~	~~8~~	~~Wave Guide Slot~~	~~EL98HN~~ (A)
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.

*** **FROM THE EDITOR**: There have been several changes at the FCC such as requiring that your FRN contact information be updated within 10 days of a change. You must use the Commission Registration System (CORES), not just the LICENSE MANAGER SYSEMS. If this is your first time attempting to use the CORES system, it can be challenging but not impossible. The following articles may be helpful as you meet the challenge:

How to Renew Your License Online

(QST Magazine October 2023, pp 62-63)

Maria Soma, AB1FM, the ARRL VEC Manager, provided the following instructions on how to file a renewal application and make a payment via the FCC's new **CO**mmission **RE**gistration **S**ystem (**CORES**)

"Before you renew your license, you will need to create a new FCC **CORES** username account, and then link your FCC Registration Number (**FRN**) to your new **CORES** account. As of April 2022, the FCC charges a $35 fee to renew amateur radio licenses. You must create a new **CORES** account to pay the fee. Follow the steps below to create a new **CORES** account, and then after you complete the license

renewal application, the License Manager system will automatically direct you to the **CORES** system. Log in and pay the fee."

Setting Up Your New FCC **CORES** Username Account (before you begin, make sure you have your **FRN** number and password to that account):

1. If you haven't already created a **CORES** account, you must register a username (your email address) and a password. Visit the FCC **CORES** web page at https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do to set up your account. If you don't know your **FRN**, you may search for it on that web page. You will need your **FRN** for the next step.
2. Log in to your new account and click the first option, **ASSOCIATE USERNAME TO FRN**.
3. Enter your **FRN** and comment. An example of a comment is "Associating FRN".
4. Click **continue**.
5. If you know the password for your **FRN**, enter it now. This password will likely be different from the one used for your **CORES** username account. If you do not know your **FRN** password, click the **CONTACT TECH SUPPORT** link, which is next to the **FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD?** Option and underneath the **SUBMIT** button. **Please do not try more than twice, as you will be locked out of your account after repeated failed attempts.** You can also call the FCC at 877-480-3201 to have them reset your password for you.
6. Once you have completed these steps and your **FRN** has been associated with your **CORES** username, the site should bring you back to the main menu. **Log out**.

Apply for License Renewal

7. File your renewal application by using the FCC ULS License Manager system at https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp. (License renewals are allowed at 90 days or less before the license expires, as well as after the license has expired while still being within the 2-year grace period.)
8. When you are logged into the FCC License Manager system and your license is in the renewal window, a box will be displayed stating **THIS LICENSE IS ELIGIBLE FOR RENEWAL**. Click the **BEGIN THE RENEWAL PROCESS** link. Follow the steps of the FCC renewal and payment process to pay the $35 application fee. Print or save the payment confirmation page, and then **Log out**. You (the license holder) will receive an email from the FCC with a link to your official license, or in rare instances, an explanation for why the renewal application was dismissed or denied. The license link will be valid for 30 days. Print out the license or down the PDF for the license to your computer.

YouTube video of this process: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI8nmjRJjg4

FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

(The ARRL Letter for March 21, 2024)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the Commission Registration System (CORES) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented. Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a public notice, the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request at https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change

(The ARRL Letter for February 19, 2026)

ARRL reports that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the CORES system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

Because every FCC licensee—including amateur radio operators—must have an FRN to file applications, this requirement applies to all licensed amateurs. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a

license in the License Manager System. Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update.

Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN or license contact information. Instead, the amateur rules at sections 97.21 and 97.23 provide that a license may be suspended or revoked "if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email." These provisions remain in effect as well as the 10-day deadline applicable to FRN information.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the CORES and License Manager Systems to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred.

The new deadline [section 1.8002(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules] became effective on February 5 as part of a proceeding that was limited to further constraining robocalls. Although the proceeding focused on robocall issues, the 10-day update requirement applies broadly to all FRN holders. On February 6 the FCC confirmed in a Public Notice that the new deadline applies to all FRN holders. The amendment replaces language adopted in 2001 that required FRN holders to keep their contact information up-to-date but had not imposed a deadline for doing so.

Numerous requests for clarification from non-robocaller interests led the FCC to issue a Public Notice on February 6 (see also PDF) clarifying that fines imposed on those subject to the robocall rules for not keeping contact information up-to-date do NOT apply to licensees such as radio amateurs, but that the 10-day deadline does apply to all FRN holders.

See the following resources for updating FRN and license information.

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information:
https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update_FRN_Information.htm

ARRL information on how to update license information:
https://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes

For assistance, call the FCC FRN Help Desk: (877) 480-3201 (available 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

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 _____