Orlando Amateur Radio Club

The Listening Post

Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams July 2026

President's Message

Greetings!

Happy Independence Day!! As America celebrates our 250th birthday, I sure hope that everyone stays nice and cool this weekend! *(Continued* on Next Page)

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OARC MEETING

Wednesday, July 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. Larry Monroe, N2HBX

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)

I know that our friends at Seminole ARES and Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society are both helping with some local fireworks displays; Red, Hot & Boom on July 3 and the Winter Springs Celebration on July 4. Perhaps one of you is also assisting them with these tasks. Please be sure to stay hydrated.

At the time of this writing, we are on the backside of Field Day weekend. I just want to say a huge thank you to each of you that came out and helped set up, operate during the 24-hour period, and/or helped with tearing down after Field Day ended. We ended our operations about an hour early on Sunday, allowing the necessary time to get all the stations torn down and everyone home before the afternoon storms hit.

If you have not been out to Field Day, you really should make plans now to attend next year. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June. The last couple of years we have been teaming up with LMARS, and the trailers that they operate out of are air conditioned. So, while operating, you are staying nice and cool.

For everyone that brought a potluck item in for dinner, thank you!! You stepped up again and we had plenty to eat plus the snacks and dessert brought in were a hit. There was plenty of bottled water and sodas to help make sure everyone stayed hydrated.

If you have ideas, suggestions, comments, or even complaints about Field Day, feel free to let us know by sending an email to FieldDay@oarc.org. Just remember, complaining about the weather won't help! I know, I already tried! :)

Hams up in the Idaho and Montana mountains, had a little surprise this weekend. Several inches of snow fell! YES! It is almost July and SNOW!! Maybe I need to think about a trip to Montana or Idaho next year for Field Day weekend. :)

Hope to see everyone Wednesday night at the meeting! The test session starts at 5:30pm and the meeting starts at 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center located at 800 S Delaney. The evening program will be "Close Encounters of the Microcontroller Kind" by Glen Popiel, KW5GP.

Stay cool!!

73,
John Knott, N4JTK

HamCation® Chairperson's News

(By Michael Cauley, W4ORL, General Chairman)

Greetings Everyone,

Hope everyone is staying cool and dry. I am writing this article after coming home from helping to tear down everything from Field Day.

Wow it has been a while since I have written an article. I have great news to share. All the invoices are in, all the bills are paid, all the accounting is done, and the OARC Board has approved all the donation checks. OARC Treasurer, Ana Groe, KM4JVE will start sending them out in the next few weeks. All the checks are handwritten and will be mailed, so it will take a little time to get them out. With that said HamCation® 2027 season is right around the corner as we call it.

International Relations team had a booth at Ham Radio 2026 in Friedrichshafen, Germany

Some of us have already been busy promoting HamCation® 2027. This weekend while we were all playing radio at Field Day, our International Relations team had a booth at Ham Radio 2026 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, this is the largest show in Europe.

We had a booth a Hamvention in May and we had a great showing at our booth. We took over 2000 post cards to hand out, and we ran out.

Also, the IT committee has been helping to get our website switched from a shared hosting to a virtual private server (VPS). We needed to do this for security reasons. It is done and we are now running on the VPS. We should have the website up and live by August 1. When it goes live don't forget to sign up to volunteer.

The first HamCation® 2027 Committee meeting will be August 1. I am still in need of some committee members for HamCation® 2027. Would you like to step up to help more with HamCation® and see what it is like behind the scenes. This is your time to step up and bring your unique talents to the HamCation® Committee.

Here are the positions we have open; they are all Assistant positions:

Security
Swaps
Talk-in
Publications
Public Relations

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me.
73.

HamCation® 2027 is Seeking Nominations for Awards

(The ARRL Letter for June 11, 2026)

Orlando HamCation® is seeking nominations for its 2027 awards recognizing those who make outstanding contributions to amateur radio. As in past years there are three award categories: the **Gordon West Ham Ambassador of the Year**, the **Carole Perry Educator of the Year**, and the **Amateur Radio Hero of the Year**. Criteria for each award and the nomination forms can be found at **www.hamcation.com/award**. HamCation® 2027 is February 12 – 14 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park in Orlando, Florida.

Our Club is Growing – New Members and Birthdays

(By Rick Peron, KM4KQQ, Membership Chairman)

Associate Michael Sakata
Kalisiensky/Tech
KR4MRA William Henry/Tech
KR4MQN Henrique
KR4MQO Nathaniel Serani/Tech
WA4BE Michael Orndorff/Extra
WB4AJL Dave Baker/Extra

Birthdays this Month

K3OCM Kim Wells
KD4RAX Mike Agnew
KI4AGL Edwin Evenson
KM4WZC Ajay Purohit
KQ4ORK Barry Silver
N4FBY Ted Mach
NZ4RG Ravindranath Goswami

K4UBB Nick Foster
KF4DGJ Robert Mott
KK4TWE Steve Lefevre
KN4SJV Thomas Pechacek
KR4JVQ Mahesh Babu Narra
NE4H Edmund Thralls
W8WDW Del Rockwell

Shawn Grage, K4SWG - SK

Shawn Grage served recently as the SWAPS Assistant Chair, assisting Jim Robarr. Shawn became a silent key on May 22, 2026. On behalf of the HamCation® Committee and the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jeannie and Shawn's entire family. Shawn will be missed!!

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 it 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 7/30/2026
First Name Last Name/Call
Robert Benson/W4RJB
Chris Brown/KR4FLG
Nicholas Butler/N4BUT
Jim Carten/KN4VVG
Alphonse Combs/KR4FBH
David Corral/W9TAX
Melissa Devine/KI4KYB
Cathy Devine/KI4BUG
Michael Devine/KF4LTF
Abigail Lentz/AA4ZM
Jesus Marrero/KP4WR
Armando Mastrapa/N4AFM
Luther Pollok/KB4LHP
George Presley/K4RSV
Ajay Purohit/KM4WZC

Expiring 8/30/2026
First Name Last Name/Call
Josh Beecham/KR4FWS
Conrad Benulis/AC1FS
Dick Camnitz/N4ORQ
Paul Colton/KV4NE
Nicholas Cosmidis/KR4FWR
Arthur Cromwell/KR4GEP
Anthony De Rosa/KR4FWT
Kealan Frost/KR4FWU
Cindi Gee/KR4FWV
William Gee/
Daniel Gee/KO4HDB
Patrick Gee/KE4FMY
Michael Kooiman/WY1E
Steve Thomas/KO4FEK

Expiring 9/30/2026
First Name Last Name/Call
Mike Acevedo/W1SSR
John Gillette/KC3UPA
Bryce Maschino/KR4GON

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*
Paul Sorce/N1PAS

GENERAL CLASS*
Alexis Flores/N4LZR

TECHNICIAN CLASS **
William Henry/KR4MRA Henrique Kalisinsky/KR4MQN
Nathaniel Serani/KR4MQO

* 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	WR4RW Rich Wilson	KT3S Den Ardinger
NE4H Ed Thralls	W2BZY Bob Cumming	W4VBK Rod Cavin	WD4ORM George Markward
NT4K JC McCormick			

*** **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)

New Technician Question Pool Takes Effect July 1

(The ARRL Letter for June 18, 2026)

On July 1, 2026, a new Element 2 Technician class question pool will take effect for license examinations. VECs and VEs must have new test designs available for use at exam sessions effective that date.

The newly revised pool, released in December 2025 (updated and re-released on February 19, 2026) by the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), must be in use starting July 1. There are 409 questions in this pool, down slightly from 412 in the previous pool. The pool

also includes three diagrams used for some of the questions. View all current question pools on the NCVEC website at **www.ncvec.org**.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, advises that the ExamTools examination system will automatically switch to the new pool and exams on July 1. For ARRL-VEC VE teams using online exams at in-person sessions or for remote video-supervised sessions, no action is required.

"VE teams using paper exams must discard all older Technician tests and print new versions from ExamTools," said Somma. "ARRL-supplied 2022 series Technician exam booklets and exams generated from the old pool are valid only through June 30; after that date, they are no longer valid."

New editions of ARRL licensing publications for the 2026-2030 Technician pool, the 6th edition of *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, the 9th edition of *ARRL Tech Q & A* and 11th edition of Gordon West's *Technician Class* study guide will be available starting this month, for exams taken on or after July 1, 2026.

OARC Meetings and Events 2026
Important Meeting Information

2026	
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

Orange County ARES Meeting Announcement

(By John Knott, N4JTK)

There has been a lot of chatter about Meshtastic lately. OCARES has done a presentation or two on it and they have been well received. Now there is a lot of chatter about Meshcore, what it is and what is the difference between the two.

Coming up on Thursday July 9, 2026 at 7pm, at the Orange County ARES meeting, our presentation will be **"Meshtastic vs Meshcore".** The meeting will be at the Orange County Emergency Operations Center, located at 6590 Amory Ct. This is near the intersection of Forsyth and University and behind Full Sail University. Anyone who wants to attend is welcome.

This is a gated facility. We will have someone at the gate by 6:20pm to let you in. If you arrive before 6:20pm, please park along the side of the road on Amory Ct, back away from the gate until we have someone there. This is also the 911 center, and this will be during the middle of shift change. So, there will be a lot of cars coming and going, please don't block the gate. You will then cause someone to be late for work, and they will not be very happy.

Meshtastic and Meshcore are both protocols for off grid communications. No License is Required!! Come find out more……

If you need more information, email info@ocares.org. We'll also be monitoring the 443.050 repeater downtown.

Hams in the Park – None Scheduled for July 2026

(by Joe Marsh, KQ4AID)

There will not be a Hams in the Park in July. Our next one will be Rocks Springs. Details will follow soon.

Winter Springs Celebration of Freedom July 4, 2026

(by Joe Marsh, KQ4AID)

It is that time of year again. Come join us as we support the city of Winter Springs for their annual, 4th of July Celebration. Set-up will start around 3:30 p.m., and the event runs from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. You get an up-close and personal view of the fireworks. We will share the fun and exciting world of Ham Radio with attendees and act as additional eyes and ears for the city.

We need your help and support so register now. The city has requested a headcount. Details are here: https://lmars.org/annual-events/celebration-of-freedom.

SKYWARN Spotter Training August 13, 2026 Must Register to Attend

www.weather.gov/MLB/SKYWARN

Find the Right Rig: New Comparison Tool for ARRL Members

(The ARRL Letter for June 4, 2026)

ARRL is pleased to introduce a new member benefit: the QST Product Review Comparison Database. This online tool makes it easier to compare amateur radio transceivers, receivers, amplifiers, and transmitters by allowing users to sort and filter equipment based on their own selection criteria.

Watch a short video about this new benefit at youtu.be/BWubGaA4_PA.

"This tool, introduced by the ARRL Lab, offers a familiar experience for anyone who has shopped online in recent years," said ARRL Laboratory Manager George Spatta, W1GKS. "For decades, the Lab has been making standardized measurements that are published in *QST* Product Reviews. While those reviews have long been available online, finding and comparing products often required knowing exactly what you were looking for. The new database makes it much easier to discover and evaluate equipment based on the characteristics that matter most to you."

The comparison database includes every ARRL Lab-tested device in the previously listed categories, dating back to 2012. Users can apply filters to narrow results to specific types of equipment and then sort products using select specifications and laboratory measurements. Multiple products can be selected and compared side by side, making it easier to evaluate options before making a purchase decision.

The tool has a lot of flexibility in the ways you can sort the data. Options include sorting the product name chronologically from newest to oldest published, and alphabetically. The data columns can be sorted by performance metric, and columns can be easily rearranged to display information in the order most useful to the user. If you know the name of the device you'd like to view, there is a search field available as well. When two or more products are selected for comparison, the results open in a new browser tab, allowing users to keep their place in the main database.

Whether you're purchasing your first radio or considering an upgrade to your current station, the *QST* Product Review Comparison Database provides an objective, data-driven, customizable way to evaluate equipment. A companion guide explaining the various measurements and specifications is also planned to help members better understand the technical data when making an informed purchasing decision.

To access this new member benefit, log in to the ARRL website and visit **compare.arrl.org**.

CHU Canada's Official Shortwave Time Signal to Go Silent

(The ARRL Letter for June 4, 2026)

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) has announced that the shortwave broadcasts of Canada's official time signal station, CHU, will be discontinued on June 22, 2026.

Including experimental time broadcasts in 1923 under the call sign 9CC, and then VE9OB, CHU began regular broadcasts in 1938...for now 103 years. The station broadcasts on three frequencies, 3330, 7850, and 14670 kHz.

CHU is equivalent to the WWV and WWVH time stations operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the United States, which began operating with experimental broadcasts in 1919 and regular broadcasts in 2026...106 years. WWVH broadcasts time and frequency information 24 hours per day from the Island of Kauai, Hawaii.

In Canada, there has been widespread unofficial speculation as to why CHU is being shut down. *The ARRL Letter* reached out and received this statement from Deval Patel, Technical Officer, Metrology, National Research Council Canada / Government of Canada:

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC), through its Metrology Research Centre, is responsible for maintaining and disseminating Canada's Official Time Signal, the SI second, and Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Since 1970, the CHU shortwave radio service has been one of several methods used by the NRC to distribute accurate time information.

On June 22, 2026, the NRC discontinued the CHU broadcast to focus resources on its core mandate of maintaining the accuracy, reliability, and continuity of Canada's official time scale and time dissemination services. This includes supporting Canada's contribution to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and providing time services relied upon by millions of users and government departments for network time synchronization.

While the CHU broadcast has been retired, Canadians continue to have access to the NRC Official Time Signal through:

- *The NRC Web Clock*
- *The Telephone Talking Clock*
- *Network Time Protocol (NTP) services*

Radio Amateurs of Canada President Allan Boyd, VE3AJB / VE3EM, said the decision to shut down the CHU is of concern.

"The decision to discontinue the CHU time signal service is both concerning and disappointing for the amateur radio community and many other users across Canada. For decades, CHU has provided a reliable national standard for time and frequency calibration, serving not only radio amateurs but also educational, scientific, and technical users. As Canada's national amateur radio association, Radio Amateurs of Canada recognizes the historical and practical importance of this service and regrets the loss of a unique Canadian resource that has been a trusted part of our communications infrastructure for generations."

CHU is the latest Canadian station to be shutdown. On March 16, 2026, Environment Canada permanently shut down the VHF Weatheradio Canada transmitter network and the "Hello Weather" telephone service after exactly 50 years of continuous service.

Thanks to the National Research Council of Canada and the Radio Amateurs of Canada for their contributions to this story.

Ham Radio at Girl Scout STEM Fest

By Jessie Kneeland, KC1SLQ
(NTS Letter for June 2, 2026)

Every year the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts host a STEM Fest to highlight local organizations and businesses that feature science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The event is held at a Scout camp in Waltham, Massachusetts, and troops and families with Scouts have a four-hour period to roam around the camp and try many STEM activities. For the second year in a row, local hams hosted a station showcasing amateur radio to eager Scouts and their leaders and family members.

Four hams participated on site this year. Steve Umans, K8ZBE, and Tom Stephenson, AA1TS, set up two different HF antennas to allow participants to listen and talk over HF. Scouts were amazed at how far the signals could reach! Neil Hanlon, N1HAN, had a VHF station set up for digital traffic handling and originated 17 radiograms. It was a good experience for the Scouts to think about who they wanted to send a message to and what was the best way for the messages to be delivered. Traffic handlers on the local nets had great fun delivering the messages, many of which had questions for parents about social plans and sweet treats. Jessie Kneeland, KC1SLQ, helped 18 Scouts talk over VHF using a local repeater. Joe Fratto, K1UN, fielded many of those conversations from his home in Waltham, and the Scouts loved talking on the air. Scouts also loved learning how to spell their names in Morse code, which they then tapped out on a key for Steve, K8ZBE, to try to understand. They were quite successful!

The weather mostly cooperated, with mild temperatures and nothing extreme, though everyone was grateful for the picnic shelter's roof during some periods of rain. The location on top of a hill and away from the woods left plenty of space for the collection of antennas, including the big hex beam. Hams, Scouts, and families all had fun, and many went away with brochures from ARRL highlighting the many activities you can do using amateur radio. Several of the families stayed for nearly an hour and interacted with all the different radios we had available, and we heard several times that girls were specifically looking forward to our activity and planned to come back next year. We will definitely plan to return!

POTA, SOTA, and EmComm

By James Wades, WB8SIW
(NTS Letter for June 2, 2026)

Portable operation is not new to ham radio. As soon as amateur radio emerged at the turn of the 20th century, hams began experimenting with portable equipment. During the 1930s, influential radio amateurs such as Don Wallace, W6AM, and Henry W. Hall, W5WE, were using portable equipment to keep in touch with home while traveling. The author of this article was building and operating portable QRP stations in the field 50 years ago.

Despite the long history of portable operation, apparently none of us realized that hams seem to love any activity that generates "wallpaper" or a contest score. It may mystify some of us, but the data doesn't lie. POTA, SOTA, and similar activities have become a major force in ham radio.

Among the proponents of these portable activities, one will find many who equate the ability to deploy a portable station with EmComm preparedness. The same is likely true of the many ARES® members who equate building a "go-kit" with emergency preparedness. In both cases, there is an element of truth in the fact that the ability to establish connectivity is the first step in establishing emergency communications. Yet, this perspective is also incomplete. Not only must one establish connectivity, but he must also know how to *communicate*.

POTA, SOTA, and similar activities are limited in three very distinct ways:

1. POTA QSOs, like contest exchanges, consist mostly of simple exchanges, such as an RST, QTH, and perhaps a name, whereas EmComm communications involves messages of considerable complexity and of very high importance.
2. POTA QSOs, like contest exchanges, do not require participation in a net configuration, whereas EmComm activities nearly always take place within a structured network involving multiple stations.
3. POTA QSOs, like contest exchanges, target locations that RF propagation favors. If one cannot establish connectivity with a particular city, state, or overseas location, the result may be a lower score or fewer contacts, but

there are no consequences of significance associated with the lack of connectivity.

If a real disaster occurs, it is best to be part of an organized support system. ARES® organizations and RRI/NTS traffic nets provide an infrastructure through which important information can be routed to destinations with which a portable station may not have connectivity. Organized nets can facilitate organization, message prioritization, and support services needed in the event of a major incident.

No person is an island. If one really wants to prepare for a communications emergency, one should learn how to operate on nets long before a major disaster occurs. This means understanding net protocols, practicing with record message traffic, and understanding the *real* limitations of your portable equipment (i.e., exchanging message traffic requires a much higher signal-to-noise ratio than predictable "canned" QSO exchanges.

Traffic nets are the place to learn *how* to communicate. If one wants to obtain the maximum value from a POTA excursion, take some time to check into a traffic net. Learn how to originate a radiogram or radiogram-ICS213 message. Familiarize yourself with net protocols. Practice copying along with a few traffic exchanges on frequency.

If "the big one hits," or if you just want to send a message home from a remote campsite where there is no cellular service (yes, these places exist), you will know how to use the net infrastructure to advantage. Establish a regular presence on your local traffic net and *learn how to communicate*.

Radio Relay International has proposed developing an award for message originations from portable locations. Those originating five or more radiograms while operating POTA, SOTA, or a similar activity from the field with emergency power will receive an award certificate suitable for framing.

If you are an experienced traffic operator who would be willing to serve as an addressee for radiograms originated by those active in portable operation, please drop an email to *radiorelayinternational@gmail.com*.

Watch Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Forum

(The ARRL Letter for June 11, 2026)

You can now watch a featured presentation from 2026 Dayton Hamvention®, Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Forum, on ARRL's YouTube channel. In the session, Walt Hudson, K4OGO, demonstrates how hams can build antennas from inexpensive materials and get on the air from parks, beaches, summits, and other portable operating locations.

In the 25-minute video, Hudson goes beyond construction details to explore the larger idea that antennas are tools for exploring propagation. He discusses how antenna design, takeoff angle, ground conditions, and operating location can dramatically affect results, and he encourages operators to experiment rather than rely on a single "one-size-fits-all" antenna.

Drawing on his ARRL books, *Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Sketchbook* and *Salty Walt's NEXT LEVEL Portable Antenna Sketchbook*, Hudson shares practical, field-tested, ideas for building portable antennas that are simple, affordable, and effective. Whether you're new to portable operating or looking for fresh ideas for POTA, beach operations, or DX chasing, the presentation is packed with practical insights and real-world examples.

Watch the video now at youtu.be/7dXyaEV8ajU.

Thanks to Hamvention for supporting this ARRL-sponsored forum.

Get Ready for ARRL Kids Day 2026

(The ARRL Letter for June 11, 2026)

ARRL Kids Day is about a week away! Kids Day 2026 will be on Saturday, June 20, from 1800 to 2359 UTC (2:00–7:59 PM Eastern Time).

Kids Day is held twice a year, in January and June, to let young people experience hands-on amateur radio and encourage their interest in obtaining a license. The event also allows active hams to share their stations and the hobby with children, scouts, church groups, or the public in as many ways as you can imagine.

Some amateurs set up their equipment in a park or at a library, encouraging prospective hams to stop by, talk on the radio, and even experience Morse code. The rules are simple:

- **Operation**: Operate as much or as little as you like. You can invite kids and their parents to your station, explain how it works, and let them take turns on the air.
- **Frequencies**: Use any frequency from 10 – 80 meters, or your favorite repeater (with permission).
- **Third-party rules**: Follow restrictions when making DX contacts.
- **Suggested exchange**: First name, age, location, and favorite color.

And the fun doesn't stop there! Take pictures and share your experience on the ARRL Kids Day Soapbox page or email to contests@arrl.org with a signed youth photo release form for publication in *QST* and other ARRL publications. Tells us their story, tell us your story.

ITU Industries of Indiana has added Ameritron and Mirage Amplifiers to its Inventory

(The ARRL Letter for June 4, 2026)

ITU Industries of Indiana, which earlier this year acquired the Hy-Gain and Cushcraft antenna lines from MFJ Enterprises, Inc., has now added Ameritron and Mirage amplifiers to its inventory**.** ITU CEO Dave Carpenter had previously indicated there might be other MFJ brands acquired as the company completed renovation of a closed National Guard armony on a 15-acre site in Linton, Indiana. MFJ stopped on-site production for MFJ and its sister companies May 17, 2024, including such well-known brands as Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics.

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Update

(The ARES® Letter for June 17, 2026)

ARRL's nationwide grassroots campaign supporting the bipartisan Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act has generated more than 155,000 letters to members of Congress in support of H.R. 1094 and S. 459. The legislation seeks to ensure that amateur radio operators can install and maintain effective outdoor antennas at residences where private land-use restrictions might otherwise prohibit them, helping communities maintain resilient emergency communications capabilities during disasters.

ARRL Legislative Committee Chairman and West Gulf Division Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, said the continued outreach effort has required "long hours on the ground and an uncountable number of personal meetings with senators, representatives, and their staffs" to raise awareness of the importance of amateur radio to the nation.

"The most recent proof that those efforts have, and are, increasing Congressional support for amateur radio is evidenced by the decision of Chairman Cruz to publicly share his personal views on the value and importance of amateur radio to the nation," Stratton said.

ARRL encourages amateur radio operators to participate in its letter writing campaign, located at **Send-A-Letter.org/HOA**, in support of the *Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act* and to share information about the public service role amateur radio plays in communities nationwide.

Young Ham Helps ARRL America250 WAS Award Seekers

(The ARRL Letter for June 18, 2026)

Micah Sandoval, KB4MPS, with his Elmer (mentor), James Hooper, K9QJS, work a shift making QSOs as W1AW/4. [Photo courtesy of Carol Hooper]

While many teenagers spend their evenings playing video games or scrolling social media, 14-year-old Amateur Extra operator Micah Sandoval, KB4MPS, was busy this past week making radio contacts across the US. Sandoval participated as part of a W1AW/4 special event station supporting ARRL America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award program, a year-long operating event celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States.

Operating alongside his Elmer, or mentor, James Hooper, K9QJS, Sandoval logged over 150 contacts (QSOs) operating three hours a day from Sunday through Wednesday. The event has attracted the participation of operators from across the country, and even around the world.

Sandoval's amateur radio journey began when he was just nine years old. Inspired by his grandfather, Philip Wagner, WA6NER, who would bring a handheld radio during visits, Sandoval became fascinated by the hobby. That early interest turned into a passion for amateur radio when he earned his Technician Class license in October 2022, upgraded to General Class in June 2025, and achieved the highest amateur radio license level, Amateur Extra, a month later at the age of 13.

An ARRL America250 WAS certificate will be available for ordering soon.

Asked whether he encourages other young people to explore amateur radio, Sandoval said, "Yes, I do talk to them and recommend they at least look into it and the things it can teach you."

Sandoval continues to learn about amateur radio, communications, public service, and emergency preparedness. He is also involved with a faith-based youth leadership and outdoor adventure program, teaching and inspiring the next generation about ham radio.

His work with the W1AW/4 activation showcased not only the technical side of amateur radio but also the value of mentorship. With guidance from his Elmer, Sandoval gained valuable operating experience while contributing to a successful special event activation.

The ARRL America250 WAS event runs through December 31. Participants can pursue the award by making contact with other amateurs in all 50 states and confirming QSOs through the Logbook of The World – LoTW. A process for ordering the award certificate and endorsements will be available soon.

Three separate endorsements can be earned by confirming contacts with all 50 states on CW, phone and digital modes for a Triple Play; by contacting the W1AW/portable station activations in all 50 states, or by contacting ARRL Affiliated Club Call Signs in all 50 states.

Throughout 2026, the iconic W1AW call sign is being "loaned" to stations nationwide, activating each state twice during the year. Upcoming W1AW/x activations are listed in the Announcements below.

The 13 Colonies Special Event

(The ARRL Letter for June 18, 2026)

The 13 Colonies Special Event, now in its 18th year, will take place from July 1, 9:00 AM to July 7, Midnight, Eastern time (July 1, 1300 UTC to July 8, 0400 UTC). Amateur radio operators can make contacts with stations in each of the 13 colonies plus three bonus stations in Great Britain, France, and Philadelphia.

This year, the event ties into the America250 celebration, with stations marking locations where the Declaration of Independence was first read. Across the original colonies, cities and towns are hosting events tied to pivotal moments in American history. Portsmouth, New Hampshire, commemorates its role in the 1774 Paul Revere ride. Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, are highlighting their locations as the birthplace of the Revolution, with reenactments and the Freedom Trail. Cities in other former colonies, including Augusta, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, are also part of the national celebration, offering historic sites and authentic experiences.

Information about call signs, frequencies, special certificates, and QSL cards can be found online at The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event.

Special Event – K8R – Union Pacific Big Boy 4014

(The ARRL Letter for June 225, 2026)

The Struthers Regional Operators of Amateur Radio (ROAR) will operate special event station K8R celebrating the historic visit of the legendary Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 locomotive to Struthers, Ohio. The Union Pacific Big Boy is the world's largest operating steam locomotive and one of the most recognized railroad icons in history.

K8R will operate Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM EDT and Sunday, July 12, from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM EDT. The station will be located immediately adjacent to the train stop location, allowing visitors to experience both the historic locomotive and amateur radio operations. Operators will be active on 40-meter SSB, 20-meter SSB, and 15-meter SSB and FT8 digital. Frequencies will vary, based on band conditions and operator availability. A unique commemorative K8R Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 QSL card will be available. For more information, visit **QRZ.com**.

Amateur Radio in the News

(The ARRL Letter for June 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026)

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

"Amateur Radio Club holding an Activity Day, May 30" / Village News (California) May 28, 2026 -- *The Fallbrook Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club*.

"Tucker to host national ham radio event" / The Inter Mountain (West Virginia) May 29, 2026 -- *The Mountain State Transmitters is an ARRL Affiliated Club*.

"Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association participating in American Radio Relay League Field Day June 27 and 28" / Tehachapi News (California) June 1, 2026 -- *The Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association is an ARRL Affiliated Club*.

"Connecting the community: Grimes County amateur radio group unveils communications trailer" / KRHD (Texas) May 29, 2026 -- The Grimes County Amateur Radio Group/Grimes County ARES.

"Tri-States Amateur Radio Club Hosts Field Day Operations June 27-28" / Chattanoogan.com (Tennessee) June 8, 2026 -- Tri-States Amateur Radio Club

"Ham radio volunteers in Angelina County stand ready to help when disaster strikes" / KLTV (Texas) June 8, 2026 -- The Deep East Texas Amateur Radio Club

"Amateur Radio Emergency Services tests backup emergency communication system" / WEYN (New York) June 9, 2026 -- Chemung County Amateur Radio Emergency Services

"Ham radio operators will be on the air at Calhoun County Fairgrounds for nationwide event June 27-28" / battelcreekshopper.com (Michigan) June 11, 2026 -- *The Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club*

"Commissioners approve HAM radio use" / Gainesville Daily Register (Texas) June 11, 2026 -- Cooke County Amateur Radio Repeater Association

"Struthers ROAR looks to connect with community at Field Day 2026" / WFMJ (Ohio) June 16, 2026 -- *Regional Operators of Amateur Radio is an ARRL Affiliated Club*

"Ski Country Amateur Radio Club to participate in National Field Day" / The Aspen Times (Colorado) June 19, 2026 -- *The Ski Country Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club*

"Bluefield ham radio operators track weather, connect communities" / WVVA (West Virginia) June19, 2026 -- *The East River Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club*

"In a record-breaking tornado season, DuPage radio experts showcase how they can help" / Chicago Times (Illinois) June 23, 2026 -- *The DuPage Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

"Parma ham radio operators to host Field Day demonstration at James Day Park this weekend" / Cleveland Plain Dealer (Ohio) June 23, 2026 -- *The Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

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	**Even Numbered Months:** City Buffet: 100 Live Oaks Blvd. Casselberry **Odd Numbered Months:** Perkins Restaurant 6425 University Blvd., Winter Park	Rich Wilson, WR4RW at N707rw@gmail.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" @ $15.00 each

Name: _____ Call _____

All badges are to be picked up at the General meeting or add $7.00 for shipping & handling.
(Shipping only available to those members outside of Orange, Lake, Seminole, and Osceola Counties)

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