



The Listening Post



Dedicated to Community Service and All Central Florida Hams

October 2026

President's Message

Greetings, everyone!

We are officially into fall! YAY! I know, personally, this is my favorite time of the year. Cooler weather starts

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OARC MEETING

**Wednesday, October 7, 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 Kevin Jackson, AA3XV.

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

Report Broken Links

Please report any missing or broken links that you find as you peruse our websites (oarc.org and hamcation.com) and the newsletter. Please report any issues that you find to: info@oarc.org

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

setting in, and if you're lucky enough to travel, you get to see the changing colors on the trees. Add football and some of the best family gatherings of the entire year, and there's a lot to look forward to!

I must reflect a little first and say that our organization was handed a blow that we did not anticipate. Rick Peron, KM4KQQ, becoming a Silent Key was not anything that anyone expected. Rick served proudly as our Membership Chairman for many years. He took on a position that, to be honest, most members probably wouldn't want to do—and he did it well. We continue to stay in contact with Rick's sister, and she is doing as well as can be expected. We did learn that Rick was closest to his sister and his niece, both of whom arrived just hours before Rick passed.

The Board of Directors has agreed to set up a GoFundMe for Rick's sister. Many of you have contributed, and we cannot thank each of you enough for doing so. If you still wish to contribute, there is still time. The link to the GoFundMe is:

<https://gofund.me/0b41ad4a6> . Our goal is \$4,000, and we are currently 88% of the way there. Again, we truly appreciate the donations we have received so far. I also want everyone to know that if you cannot donate, that is okay! We completely understand. If you are unable to contribute financially, perhaps you could share the link with your inner circles and let them know that you support the cause.

Rick's passing has created an empty position within the club, but I am happy to announce that someone stepped up to the challenge and wanted to assist. Please welcome someone that most of you already know as he transitions into the role of the new OARC Membership Chairman: Andy Gausz, KG4QCD.

Andy has been a member of OARC for many years and earned his Novice license in 1962. He holds a General Class license and is a long-standing member of the ARRL. He is an honorary lifetime member of LMARS, where he served on their Board of Directors and as President for many years.

Andy managed the Seminole VHF Traffic Net for more than seven years. He has served as the HamCation Security Chair for five years and has served as the Advance Ticket Chair for the last three years. He is also an Assistant Chair for the Prize and Information Booth at HamCation.

Andy served on active duty in the U.S. Army and at the Kansas National Guard State Headquarters as a Personnel Officer for 13 years, participating in response missions to Kansas tornadoes and floods.

He has extensive management experience in aviation safety and flight training operations. Andy has also worked with managers and executives of large corporations

in the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and Singapore. He is considered an expert in the field of quality management and the realization of Zero Defects in industry.

But Andy considers his most challenging experience to have been working in federal prisons for 11 years as an executive with Federal Prison Industries, Inc. Or, as Andy says, "I've been around a loooooong time!"

You will always recognize him by his smile!

As Andy transitions into this new role, please allow him some grace as he learns what Rick did, how he managed membership records, navigates through old and outdated database software, and helps us slowly transition to a new membership management system.



If you come across an issue with your membership, just let Andy know, and we will get it straightened out. When you see Andy at the next meeting, please give him a warm welcome and thank him for taking on such an important position.

Our Christmas Party ticket sales are going great! Please remember that you have the October and November meetings to purchase your tickets for the Christmas Party. You can also purchase them online through our website at www.oarc.org . More information will be provided at the meeting.

Sally Ride Elementary is about to make another contact with the International Space Station this month. This is very exciting, as this will be a video link with two of their astronauts. Unfortunately, I just found out that space is limited for people who wish to attend, and a limited number of invitations were sent out. As one of those invited, I promise to make sure we get pictures and video of the event to share with the rest of the club.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting Wednesday and to another excellent program: "Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) Antenna for EmComm" by Gary Spangenberg, KF4GGK.

73,

John Knott, N4JTK

HamCation® Chairperson's News

(By Michael Cauley, W4ORL, General Chairman)

Greetings, Everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well.

By now, most of you have likely heard that Rick Peron, KM4KQQ, has become a Silent Key. Please keep his sister and the rest of his family in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate this difficult time.



The Board of Directors agreed to establish a GoFundMe to assist Rick's sister during this difficult period. Many of you have already contributed, and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity and support. If you would still like to contribute, there is still time. Our goal is \$4,000, and we are currently 88% of the way there. We truly appreciate every donation we have received.

I also want everyone to know that if you are unable to donate, that is completely okay. We understand that not everyone is in a position to contribute financially. If you cannot donate, perhaps you could help by sharing the GoFundMe link with your friends, family, and other members of your community and letting them know that you support the cause. GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/0b41ad4a6>

Remembering Rick and Changes to HamCation

As many of you know, Rick played a critical role in HamCation as our Volunteer Coordinator. He also took care of the OARC Booth during HamCation and was always willing to step up and help wherever he was needed.

Since last year, our IT Committee has been working hard to reduce the workload for each committee by creating tools on the backend of our website to help streamline their responsibilities. With these improvements in place, I will be eliminating the Volunteer Coordinator position. At the same time, we will be establishing a new OARC Booth Committee. I would like to give a very special thank-you to Andy Gausz, KG4QCD, for stepping up and taking on the responsibility of leading this new committee.

Rick will certainly be missed, and we appreciate all that he has done for HamCation and our organization.

HamCation 2027 Awards

I would also like to remind everyone that nominations for HamCation's 2027 awards are open until October 31, 2027. If there is someone you feel deserves recognition for their contributions to amateur radio or to HamCation, please take the time to nominate them.

Melbourne Hamfest

Who's going to the Melbourne Hamfest?

If you are attending, be sure to stop by and see us! HamCation will have a booth, and we would love to see you there.

HamCation Committee Volunteers Needed

I am still looking for additional committee members to help with HamCation. Would you like to get more involved with HamCation and see what happens behind the scenes? This is your opportunity to step up, get involved, and become part of this great committee. Your unique talents, experience, and ideas can make a difference in helping us make HamCation an even better event.

We currently have the following Assistant positions available:

- Security
- Swaps
- Talk-In
- Publications
- Public Relations
- Onsite Tickets
- OARC Booth

If you are interested in any of these positions or would like more information, please contact me. I would be happy to talk with you about the opportunities available.

Thank you all for your continued support of HamCation and the Orlando Amateur Radio Club. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and, of course, at HamCation 2027!

73,

OARC Christmas Party – December 5, 2026

Tickets On Sale

(By John Knott, N4JTK)



Christmas party tickets will be on sale at the October and November meetings. Tickets are \$20.00 each for members and spouses. \$30 each for non-members. If you haven't picked up your tickets and will not be able to make it to one of the next two monthly meetings, you can purchase them online using one of the links below. The tickets will not be mailed to you, but we will add you to our list of attendees.

Members and spouse:

https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_afd94862

Non-members: https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_58fbbe53

The Christmas party is on Saturday December 5th at the [Knights of Columbus Hall 5727 Cornelia Ave, Orlando 32807](#). Doors open at 6pm, Dinner is served at 7pm. We will be collecting Toys for Tots. Please bring a small, unwrapped toy for the collection.



We are also accepting donations to the dessert tables. Cookies, Brownies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Pies, or any dessert that is your favorite are all welcomed. Please coordinate with Christy by email, cmoore@oarc.org by just sending her a message on what you plan on bringing!

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 the Membership Chairperson, at any meeting.



Richard "Rick" Peron II, KM4KQQ – SK

Richard "Rick" Peron II, KM4KQQ, became a Silent Key on Friday, September 18, 2026, at the age of 69.

Rick was first licensed as an amateur radio operator in 2015 and quickly became an active and dedicated member of the amateur radio community. He joined OARC and went on to serve as Membership Chairperson, welcoming and supporting fellow operators with commitment and care.

Rick also served OCARES as AEC-Admin and contributed to HamCation as Volunteer Coordinator. Through these roles, he gave generously of his time and talents, helping strengthen the organizations and events that bring amateur radio operators together.

Rick is survived by his sister, Stormy, and his niece, Elizabeth.

Please keep Rick's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

He will be remembered for his service, dedication, and fellowship within the amateur radio community. Rick's voice may be silent, but his contributions and friendships will continue to be appreciated by those who knew and worked alongside him.



Volunteer Examiner Report

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

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	N4UMB Joe Patti	KT3S Den Ardinger	N2KIQ Paul Kronenwetter
NE4H Ed Thralls	W2BZY Bob Cumming	WY1E Michael Kooiman	WD4ORM George Markward
NT4K JC McCormick	W4VBK Rod Cavin	WR4RW Rich Wilson	

*** **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.

The New OARC Mentor Program

(By Kevin Jackson, AA3XV)

At the last monthly Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC) meeting in August we started the Mentor Program. The program aims are to open conduits for communications both at meetings and in-between for new members, first time visitors, those who are newly licensed as well as existing members who need help with any aspects of Amateur Radio. From basic installation, station setup, getting on the air for the first time, trying a new mode or solving technical problems, the Mentor Program team are ready to help.

The world of Amateur Radio can seem daunting when you first get involved but it is equally daunting when you already have some time in the hobby and are trying a new antenna or radio or mode. As with everything in today's world, it can be complex and confusing. There are members of the club who have decades of experience in the hobby and knowledge that spreads across all aspects of Amateur radio. They can help you.

Since I joined the hobby in my mid-teens it has changed a lot. The choices within the hobby are immense and with that comes much more complexity. We all need help from time to time, and the Mentor Program is here to help you be successful and enjoy the hobby. Don't be afraid to contact us at mentors@oarc.org and we will have someone provide help.

OARC Meetings and Events 2026

Important Meeting Information

2026	
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
2027	
January 6, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "What's New with Yaesu Products" by John Kruk, N9UPC
February 3, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Amateur Radio Products by Halibut Electronics" by Mark Smith, N6MTS (Tentative)
February 12 – 14, Friday – Sunday	HamCation 2027
March 3, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "HamCation 2027" by Michael Cauley, W4ORL
??? , Saturday	OARC/HamCation Volunteer Picnic Date: "TBD"
April 7, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center

	Program: "Modeling 80/160 meter Antenna" By Scott Myers, AC8ED (Tentative)
May 5, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "The Modern One Tube Transmitter" by Mike Silva, K6RRE
June 2, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Parks on the Air: Growth, Challenges, and What Comes Next" by Kevin Thomas, W1DED (Tentative)
June 25 - 27, Friday - Sunday	ARRL Field Day Location: "TBD"
July 7, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "TBD"
August 4, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "Ask an Elmer"
September 1, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "TBD"
October 6, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "TBD"
November 3, Wednesday	License Exams 5:30pm Meeting 7:30pm at the Beardall Senior Center Program: "TBD"
December 4, 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 – October 3, 2026

(by John-Paul Craig, KZ4JW)

Hams in the Park - October 3

- October 3, 2026 : 8am-12pm
- Fort Mellon Park
- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/drepY7WAbiAPrLSLA>

Suggested to bring if you have. If not, no worries.

- HF radio(s) and cables
- Antenna(s)
- Portable power (battery, solar)
- VHF/UHF radio(s)
- Portable table
- Popup canopy
- Camp chair
- Drinks, snacks of your choice, and lunch if you like

What is HAMS in the Park?

LMARS has organized a monthly local park gatherings of Amateur Radio Operators we call "HAMS in the Park". Each month, we'll pick a different local park to operate from and enjoy fun, fellowship, and learning! While this gathering is not specifically a [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) event, if we pick a POTA park, we will set up POTA operations and teach you how to be a POTA activator!

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

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

Winter Springs Hometown Harvest October 24, 2026

(by Mark Julis, KR4EBJ, Event Lead)

The city of Winter Springs Hometown Harvest will be on October 24 and LMARS will be supporting Winter Springs during their annual fall festival. We would love to have you join us while we support our neighboring friends and families.

This is a great family event with FREE hayrides, live musical performances, the Winter Springs Got Talent competition, bounce houses, trunk or treat, and more. During the event, we will be additional eyes and ears for the City, support the FREE hayrides by helping load/unload guests/riding along for support, and share Amateur Radio with the community at our public relations tent.

The event will be on Saturday, October 24, at Central Winds Park. It is because of the city that we receive FREE use of our meeting space and the facility, use of the city parks when available, and great support from the city if we need something. It is very important that we support the city. We do this by providing support during the city's Celebration of Freedom Event, Hometown Harvest, the Christmas Parade, and deploying to the city's EOC in the event of a hurricane. So we really need your help.

If you want to help and enjoy the festivities we would love to have you. Registration and current details are here: <https://lmars.org/annual-events/hometownharvest>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me...

Mark Julis, KR4EBJ, Event Lead, (919) 749-3556 mjulis@bellsouth.net

Calling all Amateur Radio Instructors

(The ARRL Letter for September 3, 2026)

A Special Message from ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA:

The Summer (August) ARRL National Instructor Newsletter was sent out last week by email to all ARRL Registered Instructors. It contains information about the ARRL Learning Center's library of training videos, updated Technician Class PowerPoint slides, lesson plans for basic electronics, discounts for instructors who purchase student study books from ARRL, student graduation certificates, and even more free resources to support instructors teaching amateur radio classes.

Important: If you are an active volunteer instructor who has never signed up as an ARRL Registered Instructor, please make yourself official at www.arrl.org/license-instructor-registration. If you believe you have already registered but did not receive the most recent newsletter, please register again using the same link so we can make sure you receive future communications.

We don't want you to miss these messages and updates intended to support volunteer classroom instructors.

Want a sample of some of the free resources available to support ARRL Registered Instructors? Visit www.arrl.org/gordon-west.

I encourage all volunteer instructors to email me with questions you may have as we build participation and engagement in the ARRL National Instructor Program. Email instructors@arrl.org with your ideas!

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA): October 17, 2026

(by Jim Sippel, KQ4KJV)

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is the world's largest Scouting event, held annually on the third full weekend of October, where Scouts and Guides connect globally using amateur radio to promote friendship and global citizenship. LMARS plans on participating again this year in JOTA 2026 on October 17 and you can help!

The general plan is to have 2 HF stations... A UHF/VHF station operating on the repeaters led... A digital/DMR station... A FT8 station... And fox hunting.

We are still in the planning stages and things may change. If you can help, please register below or reach out: <https://lmars.org/annual-events/jota>

If you would like to help at the event or assist from home by operating the repeaters, please reach out. Jim Sippel, KQ4KJV. (863) 412-4136

Cheating Prompts Revisions of WRTC Scores and Winners

(The ARRL Letter for September 3, 2026)

The scores and winners of the 2026 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC 2026), which took place in July, have been revised, with four teams disqualified following an investigation into several forms of cheating. In a report published by the WRTC 2026 Organizing Committee, judges found that the operators of three teams — MB1I, MB2A, and MB2M — had their identities deliberately revealed through pre-contest frequency handoffs, violating a rule intended to prevent competitors from being identified to outside stations. The committee also found that outside stations used 15 pirated call signs to make fraudulent multiplier-enhancing contacts, with the activity disproportionately benefiting MB2A and MB2M. Contacts with the pirated call signs were removed from all WRTC logs.

According to the report, MB2M (operators VE3DZ and UW7LL), the original declared winner of the competition, has been disqualified, as were MB2A (operators US2YW and IK4VET), MB1I (operators E77DX and DJ4MX), and MB5Q (operators RW7K and KU1CW). MB5Q was disqualified after 10 multiplier-enhancing contacts in the team's log could not be found in its audio recording.

The revised order of finish is: 1st place — Manfred Wolf, DJ5MW, and Ulrich Ann, DM5EE (MB5O); 2nd place — Dan Craig, N6MJ, and Chris Hurlbut, KL9A (MB4G); and 3rd place — Randy Thompson, K5ZD, and Tom Georgens, W2SC (MB1T).

The committee also reported that similar frequency-transfer and fraudulent-multiplier activity is now believed to have taken place during WRTC 2023 in Italy. You can read the complete report on the [WRTC 2026 website](#).

Answering the Call – September 11, 2001

(The ARRL Letter for September 10, 2026)

Twenty-five years ago, September 11, 2001, the United States came under attack from Al Qaeda terrorists who hijacked passenger planes and flew them into buildings in New York City and Washington, DC, as well as a field in western Pennsylvania when passengers fought back. Communications infrastructure sagged under the weight of destruction in some places and overwhelming usage in others. Amateur radio operators answered the call, not only in New York and Washington, but around the country with ARES® and RACES teams going on alert to provide backup communications as needed.

In New York City, amateurs took to the airwaves within minutes of the attacks on the World Trade Center, and emergency nets were active — and busy — for nearly two weeks afterward, with close to 500 hams in total responding to calls for volunteers. In the Washington, DC, area, more than 100 hams answered a call to support the Salvation Army's volunteer effort at the Pentagon, which was active for a week after the attacks. Amateurs in western Pennsylvania also supported the Salvation Army, providing three linked repeaters for SATERN — the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network — to relay messages between the plane crash site and the regional Salvation Army headquarters in Pittsburgh.

Amateur radio received high praise from emergency response officials, including Red Cross communications officer John MacInnes, who told then-ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP (SK), "We wouldn't be where we are today without the ham radio operators." Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Tom Gregory, N4NW, noted that "amateur radio performed exactly as it was supposed to ... We responded to the need to provide communications where none were available." [Ed. Note: Details in this article were culled from the November 2001 QST article, "9/11/01: 'This is Not a Test'" by Rick Lindquist, N1RL, and Diane Ortiz, K2DO]

Hamvention Names First Woman as General Chair

(The ARRL Letter for September 10, 2026)



2027 Dayton Hamvention®
General Chair Hazel Everetts,
N8PTL. [Photo courtesy
Dayton Amateur Radio
Association]

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) has named Hazel Everetts, N8PTL, as General Chair of the 2027 Dayton Hamvention®. She is the first woman to hold the top spot in Hamvention's 75-year history. The DARA board of directors also named Steve Keller, AE8AT, as Assistant General Chair, according to board spokesman Michael Kalter, W8CI.

Everetts has been a Hamvention volunteer since she was first licensed in 1989 and has served as Assistant General Chair for the past two years. She is also a past vice president of DARA. Everetts holds a General-class license and enjoys contesting.

Keller is also a contester. He holds an Amateur Extra-class license, regularly volunteers at DARA exam sessions, and serves as a radio operator for the Air Force

Marathon. He is an active Hamvention volunteer and is currently Senior Trustee on the DARA board of directors.

"Hazel and Steve have both put in the work behind the scenes for years, and it shows," said Kalter. "Hamvention is in great hands, and we couldn't be more excited to see what they build together for 2027." The 2027 [Dayton Hamvention](#) will be held on May 21-23 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

Honoring James Clerk Maxwell

(The ARRL Letter for September 10, 2026)

It's likely there will always be debate over who is the "father" of radio, but there is very little doubt about its "grandfather," Scottish physicist and mathematician James Clerk Maxwell. Maxwell's theory of electromagnetic radiation laid the foundation for all modern electronic communication techniques, yet the average person knows little or nothing about him. The community where he is buried hopes to change that, as does the James Clerk Maxwell Radio Society, MMØPMS.

Maxwell died in 1879 and is buried at the kirk, or church, in Parton, Scotland. The Church of Scotland, trying to consolidate its properties, has put Parton Kirk up for

sale. The community has been given priority to purchase the building but has a November 1 deadline to raise the roughly \$95,000 US needed to do so.

According to James Clerk Maxwell Radio Society co-founder Richard Hopkins, MM1BHO, the town has “an ambitious vision to preserve the kirk and develop it as a James Clerk Maxwell Science and Community Centre, celebrating his life and scientific legacy while providing a valuable facility for the local community.” More information is available on the group’s [Facebook page](#) or its [MMØPMS page](#) on QRZ.com.

Foxes and Grasshoppers

(The ARRL Letter for September 10, 2026)

Erin Hammer, competing in the W-35 category, crosses the 2-meter finish line in the 2026 ARDF national championships. [Photo by Woody Jackson, Mt. Hood Orienteering]

Competitive amateur radio direction-finding, also known as ARDF or foxhunting, is difficult in its own right, but it gets even more challenging when you add in a forest fire near your course. This year’s combined USA national and International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 ARDF championship was held last month in the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon, hosted by Mt. Hood Orienteering. The original plans called for separate courses in different areas for each of the four events: Sprint, Foxoring (which mixes foxhunting with orienteering), 2-meter Classic, and 80-meter Classic. But those plans were disrupted by a forest fire, dubbed the Grasshopper Fire, that threatened two of the four areas planned for competition. Less than a week before the competitors started arriving, organizers got permission from the US Forest Service to consolidate all four courses in a single area, the Skyline Sno-Park.

William Allen, KG4OQO, starts the 2-meter course in the 2026 ARDF national championships. He competed in the M-21 category. [Photo by Woody Jackson, Mt. Hood Orienteering]

ARRL ARDF Coordinator Charles Scharlau, NZØI, and Dale Hunt, WB6BYU, were co-directors and course designers. “Courses designed for other terrain had to be replaced, and all four competitions, along with associated model and equipment-check activities, had to fit onto the Skyline map,” explained Scharlau. “The change meant repeated use of the same general terrain and Classic courses that were, for many categories, shorter than the target lengths normally specified in the rules.”

The fire was still burning when the competition began. “Fortunately,” said Scharlau, “wildfire and smoke conditions improved enough for the championships to proceed on schedule. The remaining question was whether four competitions compressed onto one relatively compact map could still provide an appropriate championship challenge. The competitors generally thought they did, and the results support that assessment.”

Former ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, KØOV, provided an alphabetical list of the winners in each category. Additional photos and complete results are on the [Mt. Hood Orienteering Web site](#).

The ARRL Orienteering Committee maintains information about upcoming events at <https://www.arrl.org/radio-orienteering>.

Educator Shows How Amateur Radio Is Inspiring Students

(The ARRL Letter for September 10, 2026)

Educator Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, shared his experience using amateur radio to inspire students and bring engineering and technology to life in the classroom during his keynote at the 2026 ARRL New England Division Convention, hosted by Northeast HamXposition in Massachusetts on August 15. A video recording is available on [ARRL's YouTube channel](#).

Everton is an Engineering and Technology Teacher at Staten Island (NY) Technical High School. He has also participated in the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology](#), a donor-funded professional development program he describes as "amazing week-long immersions in electronics, wireless technology, remote sensing, amateur radio, and curriculum development."

In his presentation, Henriques describes how a high-altitude balloon project led to amateur radio, a student radio club, and an expanding program incorporating antenna building, transmitter hunting, robotics, solar power, mesh networking, HF communications, and more. His students have earned amateur radio licenses and applied their skills to robotics competitions, underwater ROVs (remotely operated vehicles), emergency communications, and a solar car that went on to earn awards in competition.

"We weren't building solar cars, we weren't building antennas, and we weren't winning cheap trophies. We were building students. We were building engineers," said Henriques. The presentation offers a compelling example of how ARRL and educators are working together to inspire youth and develop the next generation of radio amateurs.

Contest University Celebrates 100 Years of Yagis

(The ARRL Letter for September 17, 2026)

The Yagi-Uda beam antenna was invented 100 years ago, in 1926, and Contest University (CTU) is celebrated its centennial with a live Zoom webinar, September 19,

2026. The free webinar, titled "The Yagi Turns 100," was by Greg Ordy, W8WWV. Ordy walked through the history of this amazing antenna that has been a mainstay of amateur radio DXing and contesting for a century. The webinar was recorded, and the recorded link will be posted on the [CTU website](#).

Get Ready for Jamboree on the Air

(The ARRL Letter for September 17, 2026)

"We've got scouts, we've got a special event call sign, and we'd love as many hams as possible — near and far — to come find us on the air." That's how Sal Mancuso, W6SAL, is promoting Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) 2026 on behalf of the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council of Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America). JOTA is an annual worldwide event, on the air and on the internet (as JOTI), with the goal of promoting friendship and global citizenship via amateur radio and the internet. This year's event will be held from October 16-18, and now is a good time for radio clubs and individual hams to reach out to local scout units to set up JOTA experiences.

For Mancuso, it has meant getting a special event call sign — K6S — and setting up a public demonstration station on October 17 for scouts from throughout the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council. The council serves 10,000 youth across Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties in California. "We'll have approximately seven licensed operators of varying license classes (Technician through Extra) on hand, running HF, VHF, and UHF simultaneously, all signing K6S," explains Mancuso. "Scouts will be hands-on at the mic and keyboard the whole time — this is their event, not just something they're watching ... We'll be active on HF SSB and FT8, with packet possible as well." Planned HF SSB frequencies are 7.090, 14.290, 18.140, and 28.990 MHz, but Mancuso noted that "We'll also be posting our actual live frequencies on [Spotted Hams](#) as the day goes, since real-world band conditions may shift our plan a bit."

More information on setting up a JOTA/JOTI operation may be found at www.jotajoti.info. ARRL has resources to assist volunteers who are working with scouts, including a flyer promoting [Radio Communications for Scouts](#) (PDF) and the [ARRL Radio and Wireless Technology Patch Program](#). For additional ideas, visit www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-and-scouting.

AMSAT Youth Initiative Course

(The ARRL Letter for September 17, 2026)

An online course titled "Satellites and Astronomy" is now available as part of the AMSAT Youth Initiative program's "Satellites in Space Help Us Live a Better Life on Earth" series. This is the fifth course in the series, produced by AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, and posted on its youth-focused website, buzzsat.com. AMSAT says the goal of [BuzzSat](#) is to "encourage youth to pursue careers in aerospace and communications" by studying science, technology, engineering, art,

and math (STEAM). Other courses in the series include "An Introduction to Satellite Meteorology," "Satellites and Climate Change," "Satellites and Pollution Control," and "Satellites and Natural Resources."

"Watch Duty": Real-Time Wildfire and Flood Tracking Alert App

(The ARRL Letter for September 17, 2026)

"Watch Duty" is a real-time wildfire and flood tracking alert app with active reporting in all 50 states. ARRL Idaho Assistant Section Manager Dan Marler, K7REX, brought it to our attention, along with [a video explaining how it works](#) that's posted to the [RATPAC YouTube channel](#). (RATPAC is the Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee.) For more information on the free Watch Duty app, visit watchduty.org.

Will RADE Be the Next SSB?

(The ARRL Letter for September 24, 2026)

It's been a half century since single sideband (SSB) supplanted amplitude modulation (AM) as the most popular voice mode on HF, due largely to its spectrum efficiency, occupying roughly half the bandwidth of an AM signal. Now, there's a new digital voice mode from FreeDV called Radio Autoencoder, or RADE, that occupies half the bandwidth of an SSB signal and reportedly provides more natural-sounding speech. According to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), which funded research that advanced RADE's development, "FreeDV RADE combines machine learning with classical digital signal processing (DSP) and can operate at signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) as low as -2 dB. Its design also addresses spectrum use, speech quality, and power efficiency, all important considerations for voice communications over HF."

Most significantly, ARDC reports that manufacturers are beginning to integrate the mode directly into their radios, starting with a module that can be [downloaded](#) and installed on certain FlexRadio models. Users of other transceivers may run the mode through computers connected to their radios. More details are available from [FreeDV](#) and on the [ARDC website](#).

FCC and HHS Initiate New Proceedings on RF Exposure

(The ARRL Letter for September 24, 2026)

ARRL is following two new federal proceedings concerning radio frequency (RF) exposure. On September 17, 2026, the FCC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiated parallel comment periods on RF safety issues. *Neither*

inquiry changes the current FCC RF exposure rules that apply to all radio amateurs but could lead to changes in later proceedings if the current rules are found to be deficient.

The FCC's [Public Notice](#) is narrowly focused on specific RF exposure issues remanded to the Commission in 2021 by the U.S. Court of Appeals. The Commission emphasizes that it will give particular weight to submissions reflecting specialized expertise in health and safety matters. The HHS [Request for Information](#) (see also HHS [press release](#)) broadly seeks evidence and information concerning the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMFs), RF radiation, and wireless technologies.

Comments on the HHS inquiry are due October 21, with comments on the FCC issues due by October 22.

The current rules governing RF exposure took effect on May 3, 2021, and are discussed in the [September 2021](#) and [May 2023](#) issues of QST. The ARRL website features additional information, including an RF exposure calculator, the RF Safety section from the 100th Edition of *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications*, an explanatory video, FAQs, and more. ARRL has made these resources available to everyone in the amateur radio community without regard to membership. ARRL urges all licensees to stay compliant and safe.

Amateur Radio in the News

(The ARRL Letter for August 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026)

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

National Public Radio's "On the Media" program aired a reprise of its 2025 episode on the effort by [Wall Street traders to use portions of the shortwave spectrum — portions close to amateur frequencies](#) — for high-speed data transmissions that would cross the Atlantic milliseconds ahead of cable or satellite transmissions. It took a deep dive into the history of shortwave radio and amateur radio's role in it. The episode, titled "Finance Bros Are Coming for the Public Airwaves," is part of the program's "The Divided Dial" series.

["Amateur Radio Club event to show interested persons about ham radio"](#) / The Daily American (Somerset, PA), September 15, 2026 -- *Somerset County Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["It's Teletext, But On the Radio"](#) / Hackaday, September 1, 2026 -- Highlights "[Ceefax Station](#)" software by Tobias Franklin, M7TJF, which emulates Ceefax teletext service that ran on BBC television from 1974 until 2012.

["Radio enthusiasts gather for 68th annual Midwest Superfest"](#) / Central Illinois [proud.com](#) (WMBD-TV), September 20, 2026 -- *Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

["The 28.6-kilogram amateur-radio satellite AO-7 went silent in mid-1981 after its batteries shorted. Then, on 21 June 2002—21 years later—British radio ham Pat Gowen heard it transmitting again"](#) / Space Daily, September 17, 2026 "Mission Notes" column.

["Concord Historical Society to host local ham radio operators"](#) /Springville Journal (Springville, NY), September 17, 2026 -- *Southtowns Amateur Radio Society, WB2ELW.*

["Beauregard Parish E911 Partners With Beauregard Amateur Radio Group"](#) / West Central's Best (Leesville, LA), September 17, 2026 -- *Beauregard Amateur Radio Group.*

["Pakistan's amateur radios are tuned in for the apocalypse"](#) / Dawn (Karachi, Pakistan), August 26, 2026 -- *Pakistan Amateur Radio Society is an IARU Member Society.*

Local Area Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

Club Name	When	Where	Contact
Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC)	1 st Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm License Testing at 5:30pm	Beardall Senior Center 800 S. Delaney, Orlando, FL	Bob Nocero, W4KBW at info@oarc.org
Orange County ARES	2 nd Thursday of each month at 7:00pm, except for December	Orange County EOC located at 6590 Amory Ct, Winter Park, 32792	John Knott, N4JTK at JKnott@oarc.org
Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society	1 st Thursday of each month at 7:00pm	Winter Springs Civic Center - 400 North Edgemon Avenue, Winter Springs, FL	Joe Marsh, KQ4AID at LMARS.ARC@gmail.com
Bahia Shriners Amateur Radio Unit	2 nd Wednesday of the month	Perkins Restaurant 215 W. SR 436 Altamonte Springs	Rod Cavin, W4VBK w4vbk@arri.net
Quarter Century Wireless Club (QCWA)	2 nd Thursday of the month	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	4 th Thursday of the month at 6:00pm	Recreation Hall, 3000 Clarcona Rd., Apopka FL	Christy Moore, KN4MDM (407) 921-9555
Osceola County ARES	Last Monday of the month at 6:00pm	Osceola County EOC, 2586 Partin Settlement Rd, Kissimmee, FL	Kq4afy@osceolacountares.org
Central Florida Repeater Association (CFRA)	Last Wednesday of each month Arrive around 6pm for some food and chat. Meeting starts about 7:00pm	Perkins Restaurant 6425 University Blvd, Winter Park, FL	Bob Nocero, W4KBW at W4kbw@cfl.rr.com
Solavita Radio Club	Last Thursday of the month at 7:00pm	Gator Room, Solivita, 404 Village, Dr, Poinciana, FL	operator@kq4afy.xyz
Radio Scouting WB4SA	Annual meetings, Quarterly events	Camp La Noche, 41940 Boy Scout Rd, Paisley, FL	Ken Lyons, KN4MDJ kn4mdj@gmail.com info@RadioScouting.us

Weekly Radio Networks

Mon @ 19:15	147.285 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=DI8nmjRJg4>

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)

Shipping & Handling: ☐ Yes ☐ No

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