



ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator April 2025 Newsletter

“Get the most from your ARRL membership by distributing this newsletter to all your fellow club members. And as always, I'm here to help you with all your ARRL needs!”

73,

Dudley KM4IYQ – ARRL E. TN. ACC

“Helping to preserve the future of Amateur Radio.”

ARRL TN Section/Division/National/International News

ARRL Audio News

Listen to the latest audio news from ARRL at: [April 2025 News](#)

ARRL Digital Magazine Issues in April

QST Link: [April 2025 Issue](#)

On The Air Link: [April 2025 Issue](#)

QEX Link: [April 2025 Issue](#)

National Contest Journal Link: [April 2025 Issue](#)

ARRL Ham Radio Open House – April 18th

Momentum is building for ARRL's Ham Radio Open House — an amateur radio event for clubs to put their most technological foot forward and show the public the true modern state of amateur radio. The events are to be held in April across the United States, on or close to World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) on April 18. This year's WARD commemorates 100 years of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

The goal for participation is 50 clubs in 50 states – but the more the merrier. ARRL is working with Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI and SciStarter to promote the event as part of April being Citizen Science Month. Plan your Ham Radio Open House in April using the resources and tips at : <https://www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day>

From The Desk of TN Section Manager **David Thomas KM4NYI**

There's a rumor going around that the FCC is wanting to abandon licensing for amateur radio operators. While there's a lot of uncertainty about the future (not only at the FCC but at most governmental agencies), there has been no serious proposals made to suggest getting rid of amateur radio licensing. What we can accurately and honestly report is this: a recent Public Notice was published soliciting public input on any FCC rules in any service that members of the public believe should be deleted or modified "for the purpose of alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens." This is the latest in a series of similar proceedings going back to 1996, when the Communications Act was amended to require the FCC to periodically review its rules.

A March 30 press release from the league states "ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®, through its Executive Committee and FCC Counsel, is conducting a review of the provisions in Part 97 and other related rules that apply to radio amateurs. ARRL is also soliciting feedback from its members. It is expected that the Commission will incorporate suggestions that it decides worthy of its consideration in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that could be issued later this year. There will then be an opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes for deletion or modification". At that time, the league will certainly be providing further details to members along with encouraging them to participate in the FCC's public comment process.

At this time, it appears most of the scuttlebutt about doing away with amateur radio licensing is coming from internet chatter instead of valid news sources. While I'm on the topic of internet chatter, I'd like to take a moment to share some of my personal thoughts with you. If you like, consider the following as an "editorial".

It often seems that whenever far-fetched rumors or undue denigration of the ARRL comes up, it stems from internet sources. We have many, many amateur radio folks who contribute greatly to the hobby by creating fantastic, positive content online, but some folks (for one reason or another) have an ax to grind with executive leadership at the league, or a board member, or even a section official....others are simply creating drama and fanning the flames from safely behind their keyboard (or camera) to create online traffic and clicks (often monetized for their own financial gain).

And let's face the reality of our world today: a social media post about Field Day or ARRL Youth Rally at the Dayton Hamvention won't garner nearly the reaction that a post flaming the CEO of the league would generate. Just like the political climate of our nation today, the "talking heads" need to "stir the pot" and get folks good and "riled up" to generate clicks, views, likes, and comments on social media. I'm of the opinion we should leave the divisiveness and sensationalism that permeates the world today out of the hobby. Now, that's not to say that there's no room for criticism of the ARRL. Anyone who has ever belonged to an organization knows that there's always something that can be improved. I'm of the opinion that we have a duty and responsibility to offer constructive criticism of the league when we perceive a problem.

There are two principal types of criticism: destructive and constructive. Destructive criticism attacks and tears down, while constructive criticism builds together by identifying a problem and offering a solution. I'm always open to constructive criticism of not only the ARRL as a national organization, but the Tennessee Section as well.....not only those who hold appointments here, but on my job as your Section Manager. If you see a problem with the ARRL and are willing to help in offering a solution, then that's the best kind of criticism there is....the kind that builds a solution together.

As your Section Manager, I'm always open to listening to the constructive criticism coming from league members in Tennessee. That's part of my job, and it's one of the things I promised to do when I first ran for this office. One of my responsibilities is to listen and pay attention to what ARRL members in Tennessee are thinking, and to take those views and opinions up the ladder to our Directors and national leadership.

So, the next time you run across someone online who's raising their voice to attack the ARRL (especially in non-specific, generalized ways) or going on about how league membership isn't worth anything, just ask yourself: Is this person offering destructive criticism or constructive criticism? If it's the destructive type, I'd recommend clicking elsewhere or spinning the dial, because those who participate in this kind of criticism have nothing positive to offer.

In closing, I'd like to express my appreciation for your being a part of this wonderful hobby we call ham radio. Thank you for being an ARRL member. For over 110 years, the ARRL (with all its imperfections) has done a dang good job to promote amateur radio, defend our RF spectrum, coordinate thousands of ARES volunteers, lobby our elected officials for our best interests, work with the FCC for our betterment, and operating a vast Field Organization that includes 71 different Sections in 15 different Divisions.

David Thomas – KM4NYI
Section Manager
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ARRL Files Comments Responding to FCC Request for Input

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission in response to its request for public input on alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens by deleting or modifying rules, In the Matter of Delete, Delete, Delete. Implementing ARRL's suggestions would promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and enhance the development of the next generation of radio amateurs. Click here to read the filing - [ARRL Filing](#)

In response to ARRL's request, over 200 members submitted suggestions that were reviewed when considering what rules should be deleted or modified. ARRL will continue to engage with members and advocate for the Amateur Radio Service.

In its filing, ARRL asked the FCC to delete or amend the following rules:

Delete the LF and VHF/UHF Symbol (Baud) Rate and Bandwidth Limitations.

ARRL supports the deletion of these restrictions as proposed by the Commission in late 2023. Doing so would enhance Amateur experimentation with digital technologies.

Update and Modernize Entry Level Technician Class License Privileges.

ARRL reiterated its earlier proposal for extending additional limited privileges for Technician class operators. Adopting its proposal would provide new licensees an introductory window to HF data and phone communications that are at the core of the Amateur Radio experience and serve to incentivize the next generation of technical leaders just as Novice CW HF privileges did for earlier generations of operators.

Modernize 80/75 Meter Subband Divisions.

ARRL requested action on an earlier proposal that would make more efficient and intense use of the 80/75 meter band. Changes in technology and modes since band usage was last addressed have resulted in overcrowding in one band segment that would be alleviated by adoption of ARRL's proposal.

Delete and Replace Obsolete Digital Code Limitations.

ARRL also asked the FCC remove provisions that refer to digital codes that today are obsolete and permit Radio Amateurs to experiment freely with new digital codes, so long as such codes are publicly documented and decodable over the air.

Implement Changes to Third Party Rules Adopted Internationally at WRC-03.

Although the United States fully supported changes to the ITU Radio Regulations in 2003 that removed a treaty requirement for third-party messages, there is no record of this change having been considered and the FCC's rules were never conformed to the new provision. Being the only nation known to continue to require a formal treaty for such purposes has resulted in no new such treaties for since the treaty changed more than two decades ago. Thus ARRL asked the FCC to Implement rules that are consistent with those internationally agreed to align with the rest of the world.

Delete Amplifier Drive Limitation.

ARRL requested that the Commission act favorably on a pending proposal to remove limits HF amplifier gain that add to Amateur equipment cost and impede use of new efficient amplifier technology.

Remove Non-current Personal Information in Amateur ULS records.

ARRL requested that the FCC complete a rule making in which it proposed that only current licensee information to be visible in the public (ULS) database. Right now, if an amateur changes their address to a Post Office Box to shield their home address, the previous address remains visible. ARRL advocates for protecting the privacy of radio amateurs.

Delete Obsolete Identification Requirement for Special Call Signs

Users of special event call signs are required to identify with the FCC-issued responsible call sign at least once each hour. This can be confusing, especially on data and CW modes. ARRL proposed reliance on the web-based database that clearly identifies each special event call sign and authorized period of use.

Delete Obsolete Paper License Replacement Provision

The FCC no longer mails physical copies of amateur radio licenses, so ARRL suggested deleting the rule that provides for sending paper replacements as obsolete.

The FCC notice generated a lot of interest among radio amateurs, with hundreds of Amateurs submitting comments directly to the FCC as well as responding to ARRL's request for suggestions. Access the FCC Notice here - [FCC Notice](#)

The FCC deadline for filing reply comments is April 28, 2025.

It is hoped that the Commission will incorporate worthy suggestions in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) later this year. At that time there will be a new opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes to delete or modify.

ARRL Membership – To Renew or Not Renew Is That The Question?

You know, with inflation, tariffs, supply chain problems, and other issues in today's world it's gratifying to know there are still a few organizations that provide "real value". Everyone is looking for the "best bang for the buck" and that includes amateur radio. As hams, we all have concerns with how the economy is effecting things. And when you factor in the political environment and FCC changes we need added support more than ever.

You've heard the old saying, "there ain't no free lunch". Unfortunately, there are organizations out there, new ones popping up all the time, that promise better support but when you dig into the details, they only provide "empty" promises. And, those empty promises usually come at a similar price tag. What a waste of money! Even the best of intentions without adequate funding provides members absolutely nothing in return. It takes money to provide meaningful services and a solid organizational structure to produce positive results.

For over a century, ARRL has provided a wealth of benefits and support to the amateur radio community and continues that tradition today in one of the most challenging economic periods in our history. It is the only amateur radio association in America that provides “real value” and the best “bang for the buck”. Because of your continued support, ARRL continues to fight to protect our spectrum privileges with actual lobbying and effecting change when ever issues arise. It also provides the largest amateur radio publication service and technical support resources available. Not to mention, it's vast Field Organization of hundreds of volunteers that work diligently everyday in support of all our fellow amateurs.

Is the ARRL perfect? Absolutely not! Show me an organization that is. The sad thing is there are more amateurs not supportive of amateur radio's future, (thinking everything will be ok) than there are members of this historic and successful association. Let me tell you something, making a positive difference takes work and treasury, plane and simple.

Over the past few years, apathy has grown, too. Apathy in this hobby takes no effort or treasury. It builds nothing nor maintains whats already been built. Let me ask you, do you neglect or move out of your house because you don't like the color of the door or a few shingles are missing? No, you make a positive effort using some treasury to paint the door and repair the shingles. Why? Because you want it to last and be sound. Hmmm... sound familiar? The apathetic and even negative amateurs need to wake up and realize that the ARRL is not the offices and officers in Newington, but the thousands among thousands of members and volunteers around the world working together for a positive common cause.

So, the next time you sit down to pay your membership renewal to the ARRL, take a moment and reflect on all the things you're supporting and what you're getting in return. You help ARRL maintain amateur radio for every amateur in the world, roughly three million of them. (about 700,000 in the US). Imagine what the ARRL could accomplish if all the amateurs in the US were members. The possibilities would be endless.

So, in the spirit of this discussion, lets review some of the most popular programs and benefits ARRL provides their members. After all, it's because of you that all this is possible:

- **Memberships that are free for students and others discounted based on age and lifetime levels.**
- **Free Digital Magazines – QST, On The Air, QEX, National Contest Journal.**
- **The Learning Center – Providing a wealth of training information and technical support.**
- **ARRL Periodical Archives – Search decades of issues and information dating back to 1915.**
- **E-Newsletters providing news with the latest information from around the world.**
- **Technical Support Services for anyone stuck on a project and needs some help.**
- **Outgoing QSL Service sending QSL cards around the world.**
- **Logbook Of The World database for worldwide QSL.**
- **ARRL Email Forwarding Service.**
- **Award Programs – ARRL sponsored awards and contest awards.**
- **Radio Club Support - Affiliated Club Coordinators helping provide club benefits over and above individual memberships, including financial incentives.**

- **Grant Programs to help clubs in their community service projects.**
- **Insurance Services for clubs and members for the best coverage and pricing.**
- **ARRL Forum for discussions and information resource sharing.**
- **ARRL Advocacy to represent amateurs in the political arena to protect our spectrum and insure your voice is heard, properly represented, and stated.**
- **Teachers Institute – training school teachers around America in electronics and radio instruction supporting STEAM and STEM programs for our youth.**
- **ARES supporting our communities during disasters and emergencies.**
- **National Traffic System passing messages nationally and world wide for free.**

Thanks to you, our ARRL members, these are made possible at the amazing low cost of 16 cents per day or less. What an incredible bargain! The Affiliated Club benefits adds even more support and benefits and at no additional costs.

As affiliated clubs and members we should be promoting ARRL to all new amateurs and other non-members when ever possible. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of you for choosing to be something greater than yourselves. It is an honor and privilege to help and support our clubs and hams across Tennessee. If you know someone that is new to amateur radio, on the fence about joining ARRL, or having second thoughts about renewing, please let them know the wealth of support the league can provide them. Help them understand that the ARRL is so much more than some “monthly magazine”. By joining and renewing we become a unified force of protection of the greatest hobby and community radio service in America, adding enrichment to our daily radio experiences.

To renew or not to renew, is there really any question here?

73,
Dudley Pitts KM4IYQ
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RAC Will Not Attend Hamvention This Year.

On March 27, 2025, the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada voted unanimously to cancel RAC’s plans to attend Hamvention in Xenia this year.

Strained relations between Canada and the US trade wars stemming from recent trade disputes and tariffs plus, questions of Canada's sovereignty cause the Board of Directors to make this decision. It is understood that this was not an easy decision and regrets to have to decline. It was reported that there is hope that they will be able to return to Hamvention next year and possibly years to come. There is also concern for the safety of Canadians attending Hamvention this year. As a hosting nation of Hamvention, we should all do our best to ensure that our Canadian Amateur friends attending the event will have an enjoyable experience without incident. After all, the current political disputes should never have any bearing on how we treat our fellow hams from around the world.

“Radio Connects” - 2025 ARRL Field Day

ARRL FIELD DAY



www.arrl.org

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has released the logo and theme for this year's **ARRL Field Day, June 28 – 29, 2025.**

Improve Your Club's Message Fair Using the Radiogram Gateway!

Your club is planning to staff a table at a local community fair or event. Offer to send radiograms. Recruit volunteers to explain what a radiogram is and, later, send the messages. Who in your radio club is active on the traffic nets? How many members know the radiogram format or know how to send a radiogram message on the air? Fear not! Your club can put its best foot forward and hold an amateur radio message fair with minimal traffic-handling skills using an exciting new tool: the Radiogram Portal!

“It's not a problem if your club lacks an active traffic handler to check into the traffic nets,” says Phil Temples, K9HI, who chairs the ARRL EC-FSC NTS subcommittee. “You merely set up a laptop at your message fair using a Wi-Fi connection and allow members of the public to enter their own messages. Later, a skilled traffic handler in your area will pull the message off the portal and send it in a timely fashion.”

For more information on the Radiogram Portal, visit : <https://nts2.arrl.org/radiogram/>

And Don't Forget the Swag!

2025 ARRL Field Day Radio Connects merchandise is available for preorder from the ARRL Store. For more information about 2025 ARRL Field Day and the “Radio Connects” theme — or to start planning your activation. Go to : <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>



Every April 18, radio amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. It was on this day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union was formed in Paris.

Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the short wave spectrum — far from being a wasteland — could support worldwide propagation. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, Amateur Radio was “in grave danger of being pushed aside,” the IARU’s history has noted. Amateur Radio pioneers met in Paris in 1925 and created the IARU to support Amateur Radio worldwide.

Just two years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained the allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. Since its founding, the IARU has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio.

Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, radio amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout the radio spectrum. From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions.

IARU Region 1 includes Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Northern Asia. Region 2 covers the Americas, and Region 3 is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific island nations, and most of Asia. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of Amateur Radio.

Today, Amateur Radio is more popular than ever, with more than 3,000,000 licensed operators!

TN Hamfests/Conventions – Let's Go!

04/19/25 – Greeneville Hamfest – Greeneville, TN - <http://www.greenevillehamfest.com>

06/21/25 – Knoxville Hamfest & TN ARRL Convention – Knoxville, TN - <http://WWW.W4BBB.ORG>

07/19/25 – Greater Nashville & Middle Tennessee HamQuest – Lebanon, TN - <http://midtnhamquest.com>

07/19/25 – MCARC Hamfest – Athens, TN - <https://mcminnarc.com/>

08/23/25 – Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest – Lebanon, TN - <http://smrclub.com>

To search for all other ham fests go to: <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

Handy ARRL Links

- ARRL Home: www.arrl.org
- ARRL Property/Liability Club and Personal Insurance: <https://www.arrlinsurance.com/>
- Find help with RF assessments: <http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>
- Find an ARRL Affiliated Club: www.arrl.org/clubs
- Find your ARRL Section: www.arrl.org/sections
- Find a license class in your area: www.arrl.org/class
- Find a license exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam
- Find a hamfest or convention: [Hamfests Calendar](#)
- ARRL Teachers Institute: [Teachers Institute](#)
- ARRL Learning Center: [Learning Center](#)

East Tennessee Affiliated Club Links

The following is a list of all the affiliated amateur radio clubs in the eastern half (my area) of TN.:

American Legion Amateur Radio Club – Sevierville, TN. <https://www.legion.org/hamradio3>

Andrew Johnson Amateur Radio Club – Greenville, TN. <https://ajarc.org/>

Amateur Radio Club of the University of TN – Knoxville, TN.
<https://www.utarc.org/p/home.html>

Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club – Huntsville, TN. <https://bsfarc.org/>

Bristol Amateur Radio Club – Bristol, TN. www.facebook.com/groups/w4udbarc/

Campbell County Amateur Radio Club – Jonesboro, TN. www.CCARClub.org

Carter County Amateur Radio Association – Elizabethton, TN. <http://www.wr4cc.org>

Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club – Hixson, TN. <https://www.w4am.net/>

Cleveland Amateur Radio Club – Cleveland, TN. <http://www.carc.cc/>

Cumberland Plateau Amateur Radio Club – Crossville, TN. <http://CPARC.net>

Dekalb-Cannon County Amateur Radio Club – Smithville, TN. <http://www.dccarc.org>

East Tennessee DX Association – Knoxville, TN. <http://www.etsdx.net>

Hawkins Hancock Amateur Radio Team, Inc. – Rogersville, TN.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/536078334756112/>

Johnson City Radio Association, Inc. - Jonesborough, TN. <https://jcara.org/wp/>

Johnson County Amateur Radio Club – Mountain City, TN. <https://www.w4mct.com/>

Kingsport Amateur Radio Club – Kingsport, TN. <http://w4trc.org>

Bays Mountain Radio Club – Kingsport, TN. <http://w4trc.org>

Lakeway Amateur Radio Club – Talbott, TN. <https://www.facebook.com/lakewayamateurradio/>

Macon Area Amateur Radio Society – Lafayette, TN. <http://MaconHamRadio.com>

Middle East Tennessee Emergency Radio SE – Knoxville, TN. <http://www.metersinc.org>

Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club, Inc. - Oak Ridge, TN. <http://www.orarc.net>

Off-Grid AuxComm Radio Club – Knoxville, TN. <https://off-gridauxcommradioclub.com/>

Plateau Amateur Radio Club – Monroe, TN. <http://parcltn.com/>

Radio Amateur Radio Club of Knoxville – Knoxville, TN. <https://www.w4bbb.org/>

Rhea County Amateur Radio Club – Dayton, TN. <https://www.rheacountyarc.org/home>

Roane County Amateur Radio Club – Kingston, TN. <http://www.ke4rx.org>

Sevier County Amateur Radio Society – Sevierville, TN. <https://seviercountyars.com/>

Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club – Maryville, TN. <https://w4olb.org/about>

Tellico Lake Amateur Radio Club – Lenoir City, TN. <https://tlarc.org/>

Unicoi County Amateur Radio Association – Unicoi, TN. <http://www.ucara.org>

University of Tennessee Amateur Radio Club – Knoxville, TN. utarc@utk.edu

University Amateur Radio Club – Johnson City, TN. info@etsu.edu

Wilson Amateur Radio Club – Lebanon, TN. <https://wilsonarc.org/>