



ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator

January 2024 Newsletter

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

73,

Dudley KM4IYQ – ARRL E. TN. ACC

“Helping to preserve the future of Amateur Radio.”

ARRL TN Section/Division/National/International **News**

ARRL TN Section News

David Thomas reports, “2023 was promoted by the ARRL as “The Year Of The Volunteer” in honor and recognition of the hard work and effort of the nearly 60,000 volunteers in the membership ranks. The Volunteers On The Air (VOTA) operating event ran all year with over 30,000 QSO’s being logged. One of the leaders in this event is Texas teen-ager Sam Lovett (KI5RSV) who also won the 2023 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award for his success in promoting amateur radio among his peers. Many Tennessee Section volunteers were active in the VOTA program, including Lou Dreinhoffer (WB3JKQ) of Friendsville, TN who worked the W1AW portable activation of 48 different states.”

Will Adams (KN4ZPF) of Nashville is our new Assistant Traffic Manager. In addition to his new duties, Will also serves as one of our Region 5 NTS net representatives and also an NCO for the daily 3980 KC Tennessee Phone Net. His appointment comes at a time there are many positive changes happening with the NTS and (more specifically) traffic handling here in the Volunteer State. Congratulations, Will !

Sad Announcement: Tennessee CW Net manager George Scott Yates (N4BBB) of Columbia, TN passed away on January 11. In addition to his service as our CW Net Manager, Scott was also active in ARES and MARS.

Our Section Traffic Manager has brought in Bruce Smith (AC4G) of Taft, TN as the new CW Net Manager. Congratulations, Bruce!

2024 ARRL Delta Division Convention

This year the ARRL Delta Division Convention will be held at the 57th Annual Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Exposition. This event will be in a new and larger venue this year at the Wallace Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville. The new venue offers plenty of indoor vendor space, meeting rooms for the Division Convention and VE Testing, and plenty of flat outdoor space for tailgating. For more information, please go to www.w4bbb.org for more information.

2024 ARRL National Convention to be at Hamvention

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® and Hamvention® have announced that Hamvention will host the 2024 ARRL National Convention, May 17, 18, and 19 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. Hamvention is the world's largest annual gathering of radio amateurs and has been sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) since 1952. *"We are pleased to unveil our 2024 logo and theme,"* announced 2024 Hamvention General Chair Jim Storms, AB8YK, and the Hamvention team. *"The theme is 'Expanding our Community'. This is in support of the growth of amateur radio worldwide."*

ARRL is New Publisher of Gordon West, WB6NOA

ARRL has now become the new publisher of the Amateur Radio License Preparation books and related resources authored by Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordon West's popular books, classes, and audio courses have been a mainstay of amateur radio licensing for over 40 years.

Gordon West Named ARRL National Instructor

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, has also announced that Gordon West has been named ARRL National Instructor. Goodgame leads ARRL programs that benefit amateur radio volunteer instructors and professional educators. *"Gordon West will serve as the ambassador for the new ARRL National Instructor Program,"* said Goodgame. *"The program will place greater emphasis on connecting prospective hams with opportunities to find ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs and classes. The National Instructor Program will also support ARRL volunteer instructors with new resources for teaching amateur radio courses and for developing licensees."*

ARRL Responds to FCC Proposals

ARRL responded to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) request for comments on removing the symbol (baud) rate restrictions that apply to data communications on the LF bands and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. The FCC also requested comments on the bandwidth limits applicable to those bands. The FCC's action follows their 2023 decision to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the 160- to 10-meter amateur bands. Those limits were replaced with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit, a move ARRL had long advocated for.

The FCC's Further Notice of Proposed Rule making sought comments on updating the other amateur bands on which its symbol (baud) rate limits continue to throttle faster data rates. The subject bands are the LF bands (2200 and 630 meters) and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. In its comments, ARRL strongly agreed with the FCC's proposal to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the remaining bands.

ARRL's comments also noted that CW operation is protected in the lower 100 kHz of the 6- and 2-meter bands and will continue to be so protected, but otherwise, all modes are permitted in the remainder of the subject VHF and UHF bands with only the data modes subject to bandwidth restrictions below 450 MHz that vary by band. The bandwidth restrictions uniquely applicable to data modes have resulted in the other modes being permitted to use many times the bandwidth of data modes in an intermixed fashion determined by those using the bands. For the data modes, however, the limits have limited experimentation with techniques already in use in other countries on amateur VHF and UHF bands.

ARRL concluded that the FCC should also remove the bandwidth limits that apply uniquely to the data modes on the subject bands, and instead, amateurs rely on voluntary band plans and local agreements, as they already do with regard to the mix of the other modes ranging from Morse code (CW) signals of 50 Hz or so (depending upon speed) to amateur television that employs signals of 6 or more MHz. ARRL also noted that the limited propagation range on the subject bands enables local cooperation that is not possible on the HF bands where propagation is such that signals can cover the globe.

The bands addressed in this rule making are:

- 135.7 – 137.8 kHz (2200-meter) and 472 – 479 kHz (630-meter) bands.
- 50.1 – 54 MHz (6-meter) and 144.1 – 148 MHz (2-meter) bands.
- 219 – 220 MHz (1.25-meter digital) bands.
- 222 – 225 MHz (1.25-meter) and 420 – 450 MHz (70-centimeter) bands.

The public period for reply comments remains open until January 22, 2024. An ARRL guide to filing comments is available at <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-guide-to-filing-comments-with-fcc>.

ARRL Audio News

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

Affiliated Club Benefits Update

ARRL Affiliated Club Commission Reconciliation Form 2024 Update

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL member renewals. The commission structure has been updated and the process has changed to make it more lucrative and easier for the clubs. All membership dues are sent to ARRL to be processed and the club receives a commission payment directly from ARRL. No more complicated adjusting funds around credit cards, checks and cash. ARRL does all the processing. As a result, your club could earn money

while promoting the many benefits and programs of ARRL to ensure that amateur radio is protected and continues to be strong.

Each new ARRL STANDARD membership earns the club a \$20 commission (family, student/youth, and blind memberships are not eligible). New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal now earns the club a \$5 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program. Here are the links to the forms you need for 2024:

[ARRL Membership Application Form](#)

[ARRL Club Commission Reconciliation Form](#)

Winter Field Day 2024

It's that time again to breakout the snow gear, emcom gear, batteries, and portable shelters for another fun 24 hours of challenging WFD communications. If you've never tried doing it, I highly recommend it. It's a lot of fun and the contacts are suffering right there with you. Hams around the country talk about being prepared for any situation well, now is an opportunity to prove it. Challenge yourself and test your metal in being one of the few in the country that can truly setup portable ops and communicate in some of the most difficult weather conditions.

First, you need to understand this is an emcom exercise and not a contest. Don't get focused on the points. Its a great time to test your equipment, overcome obstacles, and deal with adverse weather conditions. Bonus points have been substituted for Objectives this year. See the rules for details on how to operate and all the changes for 2024. [2024 WFD Rules](#)

Lastly, just have fun. Use a propane torch to heat up a cold slice of pizza (yeah I actually did that one year!). You do what you have to do. Remember, the goal is your objectives not the points but you still need food and hydration. Have your club's PIO advertise your setup so people and news outlets can come by and see what it's all about. Show the public what hams can really do in the worst of times so to speak.

So, I challenge all you ARES groups and emcom types to prove your metal and lets go portable ops for 24 hrs. For all the details click on the link: [Winter Field Day Home Page](#) I'll be listening for your call sign and I hope to get you in my log. 73 and dress warm!

TN Hamfests/Conventions

It's the beginning of the year and there are still hamfests being organized and reported to ARRL. Here is a list of TN Hamfests and conventions I have so far. Click on the name to take you to their website or ARRL details for more information:

03/09/2024 - [MTARS Tullahoma Hamfest](#) – Tullahoma, TN.
03/16/2024 - [Sevier County 2024 Hamfest](#) – Sevierville, TN.
03/16/2024 - [West TN Hamfest and Swapmeet](#) – Trenton, TN.
04/20/2024 - [Greeneville TN Hamfest](#) – Greeneville, TN.
04/27/2024 - [1st Annual Short Mountain Repeater Club Hamfest](#) – Murfreesboro, TN
06/15/2024 - [Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention, ARRL Delta Division Convention](#) – Knoxville, TN.

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](#)