



ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator January 2025 Newsletter

“Please distribute this newsletter to all your fellow club members. And remember, I’m here to help you with all your ARRL needs!”

73,

Dudley KM4IYQ – ARRL E. TN. ACC

“Help the ARRL 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: [January 2025 Audio News](#)

ARRL Latest QST Issue Link

Be sure and be logged into the ARRL Website: [January 2025 QST](#)

DXCC Application Processing Caught Up

DXCC® application processing is back to typical processing times. In October, we reported that the ARRL DXCC® System had been returned to service following work that was completed to ensure the security and integrity of the system following the cyber-attack in May. Over 4,000 DXCC applications have been logged into the system for processing since returning the system to service.

We are currently processing applications submitted in December, and we continue to mail orders for paper DXCC certificates and endorsement stickers. There were 315 certificates mailed between December 27, 2024, and January 13, 2025. DXCC, the DX Century Club, is ARRL’s most popular award. DXCC is achieved by confirming amateur radio contacts with a minimum of 100 entities on the ARRL DXCC List (entities are the distinct geographic and political entities).

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio Launches Dream Station Sweepstakes!

Newington, CT – January 3, 2025 – ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has introduced a sweepstakes, offering members the chance to win an Icom Dream Station including a limited-edition IC-7760 HF/50 MHz transceiver, IC-PW2 amplifier, and microphone, generously donated by Icom America.

Go to the ARRL Sweepstakes Now >
www.arrl.org/DreamStation

The ARRL Sweepstakes will run from January 3 to December 31, 2025. It is an exciting centerpiece of a year-long campaign to encourage new membership, and a fun way for current members to extend their support for ARRL.

Dream Big!

The lucky winner will receive one grand prize that includes a dream station comprised of the latest amateur radio equipment from Icom:

- IC-7760 HF/50 MHz 200 W Transceiver – Icom 60th Anniversary Signature Edition
- IC-PW2 1 kW Linear Amplifier
- SM-50 Advanced Desktop Microphone

The winner will also receive a limited-edition Seiko watch celebrating Icom's 60th Anniversary.

Dream Now!

Participation in the sweepstakes is open to ARRL Full members in the US (see Official Rules). Members will automatically earn sweepstakes entries when they:

- Join or Renew Membership – earn 1 entry
- Set up Auto-Renewal – earn 2 entries
- Donate to the ARRL Diamond Club – earn 1 entry for every \$50 donated
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Members can earn up to six (6) entries during the year-long campaign.

For more information about the ARRL Sweepstakes, and Official Rules, visit the ARRL website at <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-sweepstakes>

An Important Reminder to all ARRL Affiliated Clubs

It's a new year and I will be reviewing everyone's club affiliation status and database updates. Many clubs have had elections and have new officers and have even changed websites. As these change we need to make sure that the most current information is displayed for your club. If you have not yet updated your information in the club database, please do as soon as possible. For details on how to update your club's information, click on the following link:

[How to Update Club Database Info](#)

Once a club is affiliated it is always affiliated however a club that does not update its information annually will be listed as inactive. Also, please be sure your club is maintaining 51% ARRL members in your membership, which is one of the requirements of affiliation.

It's Winter Field Day Time!

Check out the details at <https://winterfieldday.org/> January 25th & 26th.

Winter Field Day is organized by the Winter Field Day Association. The association believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in Winter because freezing temperatures, ice, snow, wind, and other hazards pose unique operational challenges physically and mentally. Working in cold can be one of the most difficult of all.

Winter field day is not a contest as many might think. WFD is an opportunity to see how well your emergency preparedness actually is when posed with the most harsh weather conditions. Whether you're a volunteer in ARES or not there may come a day that your radio, regardless of what weather conditions exist, may become a life line.

So, if you really want to find all the weaknesses in your emergency communications plan, this may be a good way to find them. If you've never worked WFD before, please give it a try. Even if you don't want to sit out in the cold, you can still participate from the comfort of your warm home station. I'm sure the ones camping out in the cold will gratefully welcome your contacts.

For everything you need to get ready for WFD, click on the link above under the title. All the rules and exchange info including how to submit your logs is just a click away. Please join in the fun. Myself and others will be listening for your call sign.

If you do plan to work outside in the cold plan carefully and above all practice good safety procedures. Hypothermia and dehydration in Winter can take it's toll. Be safe and have fun.

Grid Goes Down... Now What?

Some of you know that I run my station off grid. This came about several years ago when I continued having issues with the Public Utility. I was experiencing fluctuating voltages and numerous power interruptions. I finally had enough and decided to look into running off batteries and solar power. Question is, what size, how many, what are the voltages needed, duty cycle, etc. There is a little planning that must go into determining your needs to keep a radio station powered when it's being used the most, such as Field Days and other contests. Well, long story short, I've successfully built a radio station that has served me well over the past 7 years and it's been the best thing I ever did. Plus, I now have solar backup for my home using high powered solar generators.

This got me thinking about how many of our clubs and individual hams operate during Field Days and ARES exercises. Most are still using gasoline generators for power or lead acid corrosive batteries. They are good sources of power but they can be dangerous. There can be fuel spills, fumes, hard to start issues, and constantly need refueling which requires them

being shut down losing power to the stations. What if you could have practically unlimited renewable power from solar and batteries instead? It's clean and easily available. Well, it's easier than you think. But who can one trust for good information and honest customer reviews and product support?

Now, you know as a rule I don't endorse companies in my newsletter but I've run across an individual that fits that description and he's also an amateur radio operator! Let me introduce you to Ben Gillmore KK7LCZ, owner and founder of Powered Portable Solar. Ben has an interesting story. Much like us he likes to be prepared and understands how unreliable our power grid is.

Ben started his website PoweredPortableSolar.com <https://poweredportablesolar.com/> (soon to be updated to MinuteManPrep.com) as a blog to help people understand what the power stations at the time could, and couldn't do. In his research, brands stated their systems could run fridges, heavy-duty power tools, and much more. They could run those things, but for how long? Pretty much every system at the time was unreliable in terms of long-term use and fast solar charging. Eventually, that got him to buying the systems myself, testing and reviewing them and that's when he started his YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@minutemanprep>.

Ben, has extensive experience and is considered an expert in solar powering but is not sponsored by any of the companies he does reviews on. I've personally found Ben to be unbiased, straightforward, honest, and quick to help. In his videos, he calls them as he sees them, the good, bad, and ugly. Much like ourselves, Ben understands the challenges of off grid operation whether it be a radio station or entire homestead.

So, if you want to get the straight word on solar power, I recommend Ben. Whether you're planning for Field Day or ARES emergency power and have a need to update your power system, consider a solar generator system. I think you'll like the improved performance. I know I have. If you want a reliable source of info and components to match, contact Ben. It doesn't cost a thing to contact him and get some help and guidance. He'll be glad to help you with your planning plus supply the components at the best prices if you need to make a purchase.

Dudley Pitts
TN ARRL ACC

3.980 Traffic Seminar Coming In February

Traffic handling is expanding and growing in TN. If you've never tried traffic handling, now is a great opportunity to learn how to pass traffic. This is a skill that every ham should know. With all the disasters going on in our world, there is a growing need for more hams to pass all kinds of traffic. Thanks to Harrell WD4LAR our TN Section Traffic Manager for putting on this training opportunity in February.

From the desk of the Tennessee Section Traffic Manager:

“We are delighted to have another traffic Seminar next month-February on the four Tuesday nights of February.”

Here is our schedule:

February 4- 45 to 50 minutes
February 11- 45 to 50 minutes
February 18-45 to 50 minutes
February 25- No time limitation

Each session will be on 3980 khz at about 6:15 to 6:20 Central time after the Tennessee Phone Net has concluded. Student handouts are being prepared at this time and will be available for each to download in order to participate at the highest level.

You may sign up now by emailing Harrell WD4LAR at: WD4LAR@GMAIL.COM

Do not sign up on the 3980 reflector.

73,

WD4LAR/Harrell

Tennessee Section Traffic Manager

TN Hamfests/Conventions

2025 Dayton Hamvention® Announcement -2025 Dayton Hamvention® will be held on May 16, 17, and 18. The theme for 2025 will be “Radio Independence”. Find tickets and more information at www.hamvention.org.

03/07/25 – 03/08/25 : MTARS Tullahoma Hamfest – Tullahoma, TN - <https://www.qsl.net/mtars/>

03/15/2025 – Sevier County Hamfest – Sevierville, TN - <http://seviercountyhamfest.org>

03/22/25 – West TN Hamfest & Swapmeet – Trenton, TN - hcarc.na8x@gmail.com

04/12/2025 – Free Fest – Bartlett, TN - <http://maraonline.org/freefest>

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

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/>