



# *ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator*

## *October 2024 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: [October 2024](#)

### ***ARRL Latest QST Issue Link***

Be sure and be logged into the ARRL Website: [October 2024 Issue](#)

### ***Message From TN Section Manager, David Thomas:***

As the remnants of Hurricane Helene passed through, we have watched as our neighbors in North East TN and Western NC have had to deal with this tragic aftermath of historic and unprecedented flooding. I have been impressed to witness the contributions of amateur radio operators as their knowledge and skills combined with their desire to be of service to their communities.

TN ARES District 9 DEC George Odom K4ETN reports the Carter County ARES group was activated for several days to serve in the Carter County EOC in the aftermath of Helene. ARES members in neighboring counties were active in the handling of health and safety

traffic into the affected areas.

As Tennessee Section ARRL and ARES leadership monitored the emergency situation in upper East Tennessee and Western North Carolina, it has become more and more clear that amateur radio has an opportunity to serve the public through the passing of health and welfare message traffic into the disaster area.

In the post 9/11 era, government has spent millions of dollars in modernizing and hardening communications systems for emergency response agencies. This effort has obviously paid off, as there was little need for amateur radio in the providing of official communications support. At the same time, there remained an obvious need for our assistance in other ways.

As landline phones, cellular phones and internet services for the public was lost, there was no way for people outside of the disaster area to check on their friends and family members displaced by the flooding. For several days, North Carolina repeaters were busy passing messages into and out of the flood zones and helping keep ham's informed of the local situation.

In an effort to prepare the Tennessee Section for a similar disaster situation, I have put together a group to develop and organize a protocol for the passing of health and safety traffic in our state in a disaster situation. The finished product will be the ERNP - Emergency Response Net Protocol. Our goal is to bring together local amateur radio operators, working through local VHF repeaters in their county, to get traffic passed in and out of a disaster area. Every communications tool at our disposal will have a place: newer technology (e.g. winlink), emerging technology (e.g. Allstar) will combine with time-proven older technology (e.g. radiograms). The group working on this protocol includes representatives of ARES, the TN Phone Net, the National Traffic System, repeater owners, and others.

Participation in the ERNP program will be open to any licensed amateur radio operator with a willingness to serve. While membership in an ARES group will not be a requirement, Tennessee ARES will take an active role in the ERNP program. The statewide organization of knowledgeable and capable ARES leaders is a tremendous asset that we fully intend to use to ensure the success of the program.

The ERNP working group is currently in it's infancy. In the coming months, we will be making more announcements as our work proceeds to formulate a protocol that will enable health and safety traffic to flow in and out of Tennessee in an emergency situation.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone who has invested time and effort in assisting those affected by Hurricane Helene.

73,

**David R. Thomas - KM4NYI**  
**Section Manager**  
**ARRL Tennessee**

### ***Message from The TN SEC ARES. Jim Snyder:***

TN ARES and other amateur operators in TN have been active in the response and their services have been welcomed by AHJs across East TN. The Helene response for the amateur community is dramatically underscoring several points for consideration by the TN ARES. The League and its elected officers regarding emergency communications.

1. Amateurs cannot self-deploy.
2. We are not first responders although an AHJ may include us in the first response.
3. ARES training, as currently configured, will not automatically qualify an operator to be included in a local, State or Federal response.
4. Local, State and Federal AHJs are the final arbiters for who will join their coordinated teams.
5. The AUXC position is emerging as the preferred training suite for amateur RADOs who wish to serve in a public safety environment.
6. TN ARES is preparing an amateur radio operator training continuum that will allow individuals and ARES groups to determine what training they will need for the communications services they wish to perform in a selected environment (i.e. community, local EMA/public safety, State EMA/public safety, Federal).
7. Vetting is required in most service environments and will become a requirement for membership in TN ARES.
8. The amateur in amateur radio is often assumed to mean unprofessional in the eyes of potential AHJs. This perception can only be overcome through relationship building with AHJs. Demonstration of technical competence with the appropriate servant attitude is a prerequisite.
9. Volunteering for an emergency communications role in today's world, even for the most experienced amateur RADO, without proper vetting, ICS training, AUXCOMM training, certifications and an AHJ mission assignment would be comparable to showing up to a baseball competitive event dressed in a football uniform. If you lack the appropriate training in the rules of the game (i.e. NIMS/ICS, etc.), required uniform, right attitude, even if you are an Olympic-class athlete, you will have diminished prospects of becoming an integral, productive member of the team.
10. All facets of the hobby should be represented in the League programs. Each program will have its own unique interface with the environments in which they seek to function. Spectrum defense with the FCC, emergency communications in the public sectors, education in STEM/STEAM, and so on. A thorough understanding of the regulatory, cultural, and other constraints for that environment must be understood prior to devising a programmatic solution for their perceived needs.
11. The wolves of commercialization are always knocking at the FCC's door. Without connected representation defending amateur spectrum, there will surely be losses of the spectrum. Failure to use the allocated amateur spectrum will provide fuel to the arguments of those who contend +the spectrum is underutilized and should be auctioned for the greater good. (I'm drifting off topic. Not on the EMCOMM spectrum, but important).

I look forward to working with all interested parties in the development of a path forward for ARES training and response in Tennessee and the development of an improved understanding of the appropriate roles for digital and voice means of traffic handling with the 3.980 nets and the TN Traffic Manager.

Thanks again to Harrell for bringing this and other sources of relevant information to our attention.

73,  
**Jim, AJ4NO**  
**TN ARES SEC**  
**865.748.9249**

Pray for the Helene survivors and their uncertain futures.

### ***Statement from TN SEC Traffic Manager, Harrell Davidson:***

I have wanted to write some of the positive use of Amateur Radio in light of the awful devastation from Helene. I was already doing some research when I heard AI-N1ATS from Cumberland County say the following: “On Tuesday I was watching channel 10 news and the commentator was having a conversation with another announcer on the radio station on 750 AM. in one of the flooded areas. He stated that there was no cell service, no power, no water and at that time most were not able to go anywhere. He further stated that the only information on the flooding and problems around his area was coming from HAM operators that were around different parts of the area concerned. He stated if it was not for them there would be no information that he could forward to his listeners and anyone else that needed to know. He reiterated more than once that hams were his only incoming communication on the flooding and destruction.”

That tells the exciting story off what we sometimes do. With that let me list a few websites that I have researched to find what Amateur Radio has done/doing some of which contains video other may be news print. The **Knox Sentinel** “may” early on led the way for Tennessee.

<https://www.cbs17.com/news/local-news/triangle-families-desperate-to-reach-loved-ones-missing-after-helene-ham-radio-operators-help-relay-messages/>

[https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/1frtvsk/help\\_contact\\_operators\\_in\\_helene\\_flood\\_zone/](https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/1frtvsk/help_contact_operators_in_helene_flood_zone/)

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article293361644.html>

<https://www.wcnc.com/article/weather/hurricane/helene/ham-radio-helene-recovery-north-carolina/275-a905e9cd-5b86-48ff-b4b5-f0e4546115dd>

<https://www.wbtv.com/2024/10/01/times-devastation-many-turn-old-school-tech-keep-communication-lines-open/>

And there are dozens more. I may not endorse language that may be used but the true story remains. I also want to commend the governor of Florida for his actions including North Carolina. Please note:

From His official website “Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida is rapidly deploying recovery assistance to North Carolina and Tennessee to help with Hurricane Helene’s impacts in Operation Blue Ridge. This multi-state agency response will include the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida State Guard, Florida National Guard, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Florida Law Enforcement Coordination Task Force, and a Law Enforcement Strike Team. Additionally, today Governor Ron DeSantis

announced that Floridians seeking rescue in Western North Carolina will be aided by the State of Florida.”

Florida was prepared. Louisiana, Alabama and Texas were prepared. Tennessee was prepared in that TDOT started loading sending equipment to start recovery with plans in hand. I'm not sure N Carolina was prepared according to reports from their governor which were public also.

These are positive reports where Amateur Radio have played an important role. Amateur Radio operators in Tennessee have been doing “off grid” programs once each quarter to help prepare for communication emergencies in our state. Notice in all the news events phrases like “no Internet, no cell phone, no communications”. Amateur Radio is the only communication available.

**73,  
WD4LAR/Harrell  
TN SEC. Traffic Manager**

***Statement from TN SEC ACC, Dudley Pitts KM4IYQ:***

First I want to thank everyone that responded to my various inquires concerning Hams helping out during this terrible disaster effecting countless families and multiple counties of east TN. The reports have been many and very eyeopening. I ask that we all take a moment and pray for all the families of the multiple communities that have lost loved ones, their homes, and their businesses. Buildings and “stuff” can be replaced but a “life” is a precious thing that can't be replaced.

As you read this issue of my newsletter, just look at all the Hams and ARES groups that stepped up and made a difference and continue to do so. Cell phones were useless. Internet was non-existent. In some cases, entire Fire and Police departments destroyed. Some of the first responders were limited in ability with many of them losing their own homes and in some cases friends and family members. But, they continued to help others in need.

Folks, this is what I've preached about for years. Stay prepared. Practice Set exercises. Keep your ARES and certifications current. Store extra food and water in your homes. Know your equipment. A disaster is NOT the time to read a manual and learn how to operate your equipment. It's been my personal experience that disasters are going to be with us forever but how we prepare can save lives! Even if something doesn't ever happen to you personally, the food and water you stock and equipment and skills you have may help someone else someday. This lessen is quite apparent based on recent events.

Lastly, I'm so glad to be a part of the “Ham Community” in TN. The old saying “when all else fails, there's Ham Radio” is so very true. The skills and volunteer spirit of the people that make up this community continue to restore my faith in people whenever I have my doubts. God Bless you all and keep those electrons flowing!

**73,  
Dudley KM4IYQ  
ARRL E. TN. ACC.**

### ***Source for Locating Persons Effected by Hurricane Helene:***

Thanks to Ronnie-N4PHL who is a member of the Hurricane Net for the information. Click on the link and follow instructions please.

If you need assistance locating or connecting with a loved one because of Hurricane Helene, the Red Cross may be able to help.

**Please Click Here.**

### ***I-40 at NC Border Collapses and is Closed:***

I-40 East is closed from Mile Marker 432 in Tennessee until Mile Marker 3 in North Carolina. I-40 West is closed starting at Mile Marker 3 in North Carolina through Mile Marker 435 in Tennessee. A mudslide on the North Carolina side resulted in a partial collapse of the highway, according to Kelse Edwards, a communications director for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. There is no timeline for how long it will take to assess the damage or repair the roadway.

## ***Amateur Radio Operators + Teamwork = Success***

***David Thomas – KM4NYI  
ARRL Tennessee Section Manager***

Kevin Duplantis, W4KEV of Knoxville, TN operates many repeaters in the eastern part of the state. Among these, is 145.410, located on Viking Mountain (4572' AMSL) in Greene County, TN. The repeater covers much of the area in North Carolina and Tennessee that was decimated during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, and is RF linked to 3 other TN repeaters to make a network connecting major cities like Knoxville, Nashville and Chattanooga, TN with Asheville, NC and dozens of rural towns and communities scattered across the Great Smoky Mountains.

Power lines to this repeater went down as Helene blew through, leaving the repeater on battery power. Not knowing how long it would be before commercial power was restored, the RF link was disconnected in order keep the repeater itself operating as long as possible. As it became clear power was liable to be off for an extended time, additional batteries were going to be necessary.

A conversation with TN ARES SEC Jim Snyder, AJ4NO resulted in a call for help. West TN ASEC Steve Kellett KF4SJU arranged a donation of an entire pallet of batteries courtesy of Dale Sanders WD4IFR of Alpine Power Systems in Memphis. The question then was "how do we get over a 1/2 ton of batteries from Memphis to upper East Tennessee, 500 miles away"?

Tennessee ARRL Section Manager David Thomas KM4NYI put out a request for help on the evening session of the 75 meter Tennessee Phone Net (the daily section traffic net). Morning Net Manager, The Rev. Sky McCracken KO4DKI of Jackson, saw this as an opportunity to assist. He traveled to Memphis and brought the batteries to Dickson where Alex Cochran

KB4LX hauled them to the office of commercial broadcasters Midwest Communications in Nashville. Through the courtesy of Midwest's General manager Michael Brody and engineer Jason Cooper, the batteries got to Knoxville, where W4KEV and others can use them. The pallet of batteries will be shared between repeater owners including W4KEV, AA4BS, the Andrew Johnson ARC, and MTEARS (a statewide network of linked repeaters).

The whole process is proof positive that good things happen when amateur radio operators come together as a team. We appreciate those in the western part of the section for coming thru for us as we attempt to serve those who are hurting in the Carolinas and upper East Tennessee.

## ***Ham Radio Serving Southeast US Recovery Efforts***

ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio® is tracking how amateur radio is proving critical in areas hit hard by Hurricane Helene, especially in North and South Carolina, portions of Tennessee, and beyond. In the hardest-hit Asheville, North Carolina, area, homes and entire towns have been swept away by flood waters and mudslides. Over 200 people have been killed, and many more are still missing.

Widespread devastation has damaged the power grid and roads, and many residents are without cell phone service and other utilities. For several days, radio communications were the only means of passing information. Ham radio continues to play a significant role in this situation.

In North Carolina, all official emergency radio communications are done through NC AUXCOMM. NC Division of Emergency Management Senior External Affairs Specialist Brian Haines says hams are deployed. "Amateur radio operators are working side by side with first responder communications personnel all over Western North Carolina. Needless to say, we are interested in highlighting all they are doing but at this point they are heavily involved in response efforts, which is where we need to focus," he said.

Winlink, which provides email over amateur radio, has been used significantly in the recovery. ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, says the recent FCC removal of symbol rate restrictions has allowed a streamlined response using modern technology. "Winlink is an example of how modern tools work well within the Amateur Radio Service. Not having to petition the FCC for a waiver of the old rules allowed Winlink to be used immediately during this emergency," he said. ARRL had advocated for the change, which was implemented in 2023.

Significant stories of the response from individual hams is emerging, particularly from those who have created pop-up nets to pass health and welfare traffic. Using mountaintop repeaters that have robust power backups, HF frequencies, and Winlink, ham radio operators are putting in their time, talents, and personal gear to good use.

The local news media in affected areas has connected with several radio amateurs to highlight their work. CBS 17 in Raleigh reported on Van Lee, KM4TC, who helped

families trying to get information on loved ones. In Charlotte, Queen City News told the story of Dan Gitro, K2DMG, who has been providing information to hams about current conditions as well as passing along messages to loved ones.

Countless other hams have stepped up by passing traffic and providing information. ARRL seeks to tell those stories of selfless service as the operators find time.

Amateur radio has been serving communities even before the storm hit. The Hurricane Watch Net, VoIP Hurricane Net, and WX4NHC, the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center, were all active as the storm churned towards Florida. In the 25 hours that the net was active, hams passed along over 100 surface reports that were used by forecasters to make more informed decisions about the storm.

Hurricane Helene made landfall near Perry, Florida, on the evening of Thursday, September 26, as a Category 4 storm. With winds of 140 miles per hour, it was the strongest hurricane on record to slam into Florida's Big Bend.

In Florida, Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers were embedded with county officials and at the State Emergency Operations Center.

As the storm moved north, the worst impacts were felt. Officials have classified the rainfall near Asheville as a 1,000-year event. The impact started to emerge over the weekend of September 28—29.

ARRL leadership was in touch with field organization volunteers in the impacted area throughout the weekend. On Monday, a call was held to see what resources may be needed. A clear challenge of logistics emerged. Entire road networks are unpassable. General aviation pilots have been working, as they do during major disasters, to use donated aircraft to ferry in relief supplies. Ham radio operators have been working with Operation Airdrop and other volunteer groups to help provide communications support. Dozens of private helicopters have been flying in supplies, as have military assets.

In Tennessee, hams have rallied to return repeaters impacted by the storm to service. Section Manager of the ARRL Tennessee Section David Thomas, KM4NYI, reports that a request for help on the TN ARES net resulted in batteries being donated and delivered to return the W4KEV repeater system to service, including the 145.410 machine located on Viking Mountain in Greene County, Tennessee, which covers much of the area in North Carolina and Tennessee that was decimated.

As connectivity via phone and data networks continues to return, ARRL expects more stories of amateur radio serving communities will emerge.

While commercial communications networks and utilities are increasingly more resilient, Hurricane Helene has demonstrated that amateur radio is a critical partner that works When All Else Fails®.



## ***2024 Grants to Amateur Radio Organizations Are Almost Over!***

The ARRL Foundation grants program awards limited funding to organizations for eligible amateur radio related projects and initiatives, particularly those with a focus on educating, licensing, and supporting Amateur Radio activities. Youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged. The ARRL Foundation grants program accepts proposals on a cyclical model three times a year.

### **Grant proposals are accepted from:**

- February 1 - February 28
- June 1 - June 30
- October 1 - October 31

All proposals will be reviewed by the Grant Committee at the close of each cycle. Once the Committee agrees on the proposals to fund, they will be sent to the full Foundation Board for a formal vote. Awardees will be notified approximately one month after the closing of each cycle.

### **Eligibility and Guidelines:**

- Grant requests for emergency communications equipment, facilities, or projects will not be considered.
- Grant requests for ongoing operations or expenses will not be considered.
- Only programs and initiatives conducted within the United States are eligible for consideration.
- Proposals for projects with a high likelihood of sustainability or expansion are encouraged and preferred.
- Proposals for projects with demonstrated support of the local amateur radio community or clubs are encouraged and preferred.
- Grants are awarded only to organizations, not individuals.

- Awarded grants generally do not exceed \$3,000.
- The ARRL Foundation may elect to fund a qualified proposal in its entirety or partially at its sole discretion.
- It is rare for the ARRL Foundation to award an extension to a previously issued grant.
- The ARRL Foundation does not wish to be the sole funder of a proposal and gives preference to groups that provide evidence of other successful fundraising conducted prior to proposal submission.

ARRL Foundation grants are awarded from its General Fund or one of the following special sources:

Victor C. Clark Youth Incentive Fund  
CW Operators Educational Fund  
The Alfred E. Friend, Jr., W4CF Educational Activities Fund  
The Keith Pugh Education to Promote Amateur Radio Fund  
The Keith Pugh Satellite Projects Fund

Questions regarding grant proposals, eligibility, or contributions to the ARRL Foundation may be directed by email to [foundation@arrl.org](mailto:foundation@arrl.org).

## ***TN Hamfests/Conventions***

Click on the name to take you to their website or ARRL details for more information. If you have a flyer for your hamfest, please email me a copy for future newsletter issues:

10/18-19/2024 - [Chattanooga Hamfest](#) – Chattanooga, TN.

## ***Handy ARRL Links***

- ARRL Home: [www.arrl.org](http://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](http://www.arrl.org/clubs)
- Find your ARRL Section: [www.arrl.org/sections](http://www.arrl.org/sections)
- Find a license class in your area: [www.arrl.org/class](http://www.arrl.org/class)
- Find a license exam in your area: [www.arrl.org/exam](http://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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/w4udbarc/)

Campbell County Amateur Radio Club – Jonesboro, TN. [www.CCARClub.org](http://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](mailto:utarc@utk.edu)

University Amateur Radio Club – Johnson City, TN. [info@etsu.edu](mailto:info@etsu.edu)

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