



# *ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator September 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: [September 2024](#)

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

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

### ***The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is coming this fall.***

This nationwide exercise is the chance to test your personal emergency-operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency-like deployment.

ARRL Field Organization leaders at the section and local levels, and many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communications, are developing scenarios in consultation with a variety of agencies and organizations for whom radio amateurs are known to provide service during emergencies.

The League's ARES, National Traffic System (NTS), the governmental Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), SKYWARN™, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public-service oriented radio amateurs are among those who are eligible to participate in the exercise to practice emergency operation plans, nets and procedures. The ARRL has longstanding relationships with several national organizations including the American Red Cross, the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Salvation Army (among others). More information on these and other national served agencies may be found at [www.arrl.org/served-agencies-and-partners](http://www.arrl.org/served-agencies-and-partners).

Let this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test be a chance to reach out to these partners to establish or review plans and develop working relationships. More information can be found at <https://www.arrl.org/simulated-emergency-test>

### ***This is National Preparedness Month.***

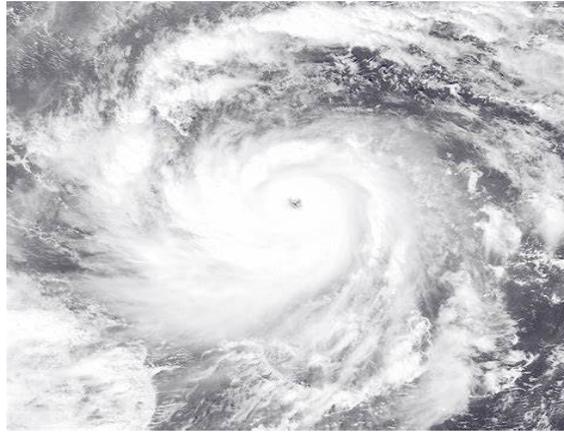
September is National Preparedness Month, and ARRL is working to help radio amateurs have a plan for family resilience. Many hams enjoy public service as part of their operating. Being ready to activate for a served agency through the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) involves not only being licensed and trained, but also prepared and equipped.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, suggests that hams and their families have a "go-bag". He says there are a few things to consider: "You need to be able to function while activated, so that means you need a kit for your needs and a kit for your radio needs. If your family is impacted by the situation, they also need to have some gear at the ready."

On the ARRL website, there's an [Emergency Prep Checklist](#). It lists the common items such as food and water for several days, a first aid kit, medications, chargers for your devices and other useful items.

Having a kit for your radio is useful as well. "Go kits will vary based on function and need for the field," said Johnston. "Most kits should include a dual band HT and/or mobile radio with antenna, a power supply and all necessary cables and connectors. Every kit should include note pad or paper of some type as well as pens or pencils. You should have a power source and power cables. If you are working HF then you will need an HF radio and antenna, and if you want digital capabilities, then a computer with software preloaded will be desired."

Other things you may want will include tape and tools, spare batteries, headphones, flashlights of some sort, cell phone chargers, and a multimeter. Other items that won't fit in a bag but may be needed include a generator, a working surface like a small folding table, a chair, and some type of shelter.



## ***Hams Respond as Hawaii Threatened by Three Major Storms***

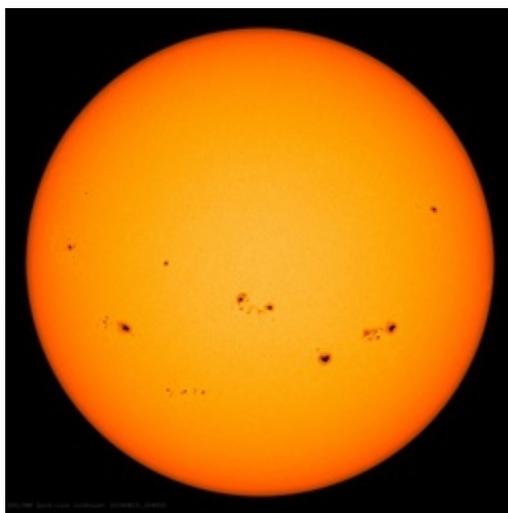
In late August, Hawaii's big island was threatened by three major tropical storms and amateur radio operators were prepared to assist as the threat grew more intense. Russell Roberts, KH6JRM, Public Information Officer, Hawaii County, ARRL Pacific Section, said that beginning August 23, storm watches and warnings were being issued for tropical storms Hone, Gilma, and Hector, all churning off the island's southern coast.

By August 31 and September 1, Hone had become a Category 1 hurricane with winds over 75 miles per hour (MPH), occasional gusts to 100 MPH and heavy rain. Gilma was next as a Category 1, but later intensified to a Category 3 hurricane, dropping 28 inches of rain which flooded roads, along with high winds that brought down trees, power and communications lines.

"We had 3 Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) operators on the net for about 24 hours beginning August 30 and they handled 41 contacts," said Roberts. "Some repeaters were out of fuel, so we switched to HF to pass traffic and assess the damage."

The storms never made landfall and while there were no fatalities or injuries, the damage was severe. Nearly 30,000 residents were affected. Power is still out for over 200 customers, cleanup and road repair are active.

"We were very fortunate," said Roberts. "There was concern a fire warning would need to be issued for several parts of the island. But the approaching weather brought rain and lowered temperatures."



## ***Solar Cycle 25 Sets New Sunspot Records***

Solar activity continues to intensify. In August 2024, the average monthly sunspot number was over 200 for the first time in 23 years.

The current solar cycle was not expected to be this strong. Back in Dec. 2019, experts predicted it would be weak like its immediate predecessor Solar Cycle 24. However, Solar Cycle 25 may rival some of the stronger cycles of the 20th century. In May 2024 we experienced a century-class geomagnetic storm with auroras sighted in the South Pacific, central America and south Africa.

The last time sunspot counts were this high was back in September through December of 2001. The sun was winding up to launch the Great Halloween Storms of 2003, which included the strongest X-ray solar flare ever recorded, an (X45) and a CME so strong it was detected by Voyager at the edge of the solar system. Could it happen again? Current sunspot counts indicate it's possible.

The predicted Solar Max is to occur in July 2025. Based on the current activity, we probably have at least 2 more years of high solar activity. So, enjoy the Flux Factor!



## ***ARRL VEC Services Latest Update During Systems Disruption***

ARRL previously reported that we are responding to a serious incident involving access to our network and headquarters-based systems. Several services have been affected, including those administered by the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC).

**Exam Registrations and Materials.** ARRL Volunteer Examiners (VEs) should continue to submit exam registrations and material requests. We are able to post new or revised exam session dates and details to the website, we continue to ship out exam materials. Please remember that most exam materials are available on our website ([www.arrl.org/resources-for-ves](http://www.arrl.org/resources-for-ves)).

**Processing Applications to the FCC.** We are processing Amateur Radio License applications to the FCC. This includes applications for new and upgrade licenses, individual applications, and club license applications. The VEC exam session upload webpage was not affected by the incident. The VE session counts webpage data entry programming has been unavailable since May 12th. It will be updated with new data as soon as we are able.

**VE Accreditations, International Radio Permits and License Class Certificates.** We are unable to create Volunteer Examiner (VE) badges, certificates, and stickers. New ARRL VE applications and renewals are unable to be processed at this time. International Amateur Radio Permits and License Class Certificates are being created and shipped.

**2024 – 2028 Extra Class Exam Booklets.** A previous version of this story indicated that the ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE team leaders with the new Extra-class exam booklet designs around mid-June. Due to ARRL's recent system disruption, the shipment was delayed. The exam booklets were shipped out July 8 and should have been delivered before August 1. VE Teams may contact the ARRL VEC to receive instructions on how to print new Extra exams in the interim. The newly revised pool must be used for Extra-class license exams starting July 1, 2024. Exam designs based off the previous pool are no longer valid. The outdated versions of the Extra exams should be destroyed or thrown away to avoid a mix-up at the testing session.

## **ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program | FCC Application Fee Reimbursement**

**Information.** ARRL is continuing to accept reimbursement forms to cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new license candidates younger than 18-years of age for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL VEC. Reimbursement checks may take longer than normal to be processed at this time.



## ***Grants to Amateur Radio Organizations Are Still Available for 2024***

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:

08/24/2024 - [Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest](#) – Lebanon, TN.

09/14/2024 - [East Tennessee Hamfest by Lakeway ARC](#) – Dandridge, TN. See flyer below:



VE Testing will  
be available

Admission....\$10.00 includes prize ticket  
Indoor vending...Admission(s)+\$20.00/space  
Inside table rentals....\$ 5.00 ea  
Boneyard/Tailgating...Admission(s)+ \$ 10.00/space

Set up 0600  
Doors open 8a-2pm  
Grand Prize T.B.A.



*September 14th, 2024*

Field of Dreams Activity Center

1145 Treadway Dr.  
Dandridge, TN 37725



East Tennessee Hamfest



EXAM REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10:00 AT FRONT  
DOOR

TESTING AT 11:00

MUST HAVE FRN AND REGISTER IN ADVANCE  
[hamstudy.org/sessions/W4WRE/all](http://hamstudy.org/sessions/W4WRE/all)

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/>