ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator July 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: July 2025 News

ARRL Digital Magazine Issues in April
QST Link: July 2025 Issue
On The Air Link: July 2025 Issue
QEX Link: July/August 2025 Issue
National Contest Journal Link: July 2025 Issue

Tragic Death During A Recent POTA Activation
News has come out about a tragic accident that took the life of a ham radio operator and POTA enthusiast, Tripp Owens N4NTO. According to news reports, he was electrocuted at a cemetery in Harnett County, North Carolina during a POTA activation of a battlefield.

Reports say his vertical antenna came into contact with overhead power lines while taking his antenna system down after an activation. This is such sad news not only for the POTA community but all hams. N4NTO was a well-known and respected North Carolina POTA operator being an active hunter and activator whose callsign has been in many logbooks over the years. Safety is so important during all portable operations. However, accidents such as

these can happen to even the most experienced operators. This tragedy is a sobering reminder of the hazards of portable operations and how important it is that we slow down and double-check each step of our deployment and tear-downs. So, let's honor N4NTO's passing by doing just that and remembering Tripp each time we activate portable.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the Owens family during this most difficult time.
Let's remember Tripp Ownes, N4NTO – now SK.

Let's Be Clear On Information Distribution

There have been rumors going around that the ARRL filed requests with the FCC to remove license requirements for amateur radio. Let's be clear on the subject.... ARRL did NOT make such a request! For details on the filing by the ARRL in response to the Delete, delete, delete FCC memorandum please read the posted filing by the ARRL at ARRL FCC Filing. Let's be sure of our facts before posting any information publicly. Fact check so that you don't create an embarrassing situation for yourself.

W1AW Gets A New Addition to Studio 1

There is a new addition to Studio 1 at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut: a complete station of the latest gear from FlexRadio, including a FLEX-8600™ Signature Series SDR transceiver, a Maestro C Control Console, Power Genius XL (PGXL) amplifier, and Radiosport RS60CF headset. The equipment is the latest addition to W1AW, which hosts a complement of equipment in each of three operating studios under rotating agreements with major amateur radio manufacturers. During his visit to present the station to ARRL on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, FlexRadio Chief Technology Officer Stephen Hicks, N5AC, described the station as an addition for the benefit of ARRL members and all visitors to W1AW. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and CEO David Minster, NA2AA, were on hand to receive the equipment on behalf of ARRL.

Use A PSA To Get The Word Out About Ham Radio

Are you wanting to run an ad for Amateur Radio on a podcast or local radio station? ARRL has a variety of public service announcements (PSAs) for broadcast radio stations and podcasts. All are welcome to use the PSAs, provided you notify the ARRL Public Relations Department you are airing them. Additional tips and help in getting audio PSAs on the air are also available. For more information go to PSAs For Promotion.

Great Numbers Stacking Up for 2025 ARRL Field Day

The numbers for 2025 ARRL Field Day continue to grow. As of today, July 10, 3227 entries have been received and each day the list gets bigger, according to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE. "*Get those entries in!*" he encouraged. The deadline is July 29.

It was a big year for ARRL Field Day on social media. 260 public posts across several platforms used the hashtag #ARRLFD. That doesn't even cover posts in groups or on private pages. The public posts alone reached 3.5 million viewers. There was also significant growth in news media coverage of 2025 ARRL Field Day. There were 1,810 media mentions of ARRL Field Day year-to-date, a 70% increase from 2024. "*We're hearing from clubs that were featured in coverage that people have been calling and wanting to get into amateur radio,*" said ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX. "*It shows that the outreach value of ARRL Field Day is significant.*"

AST SpaceMobile Could Be A Problem For Amateur Radio Worldwide

This is just another example of corporate takeover attempts of precious spectrum and in this case, a slice of amateur radio spectrum is being effected. AST SpaceMobile is wanting access to the 430 to 440MHz band for it's satellite-to-phone service provision in Europe. Mario Lorenz DL5MLO is an amateur radio operator in Germany and has asked the US Federal Communication Commission to deny AST's proposal to use that portion of the spectrum worldwide which could result in interference to amateur radio stations in Region 1. Amateur Radio stations in the US have a larger 70cm allocation (420 MHz - 450 MHz). But Region 1 Europe amateur radio spectrum is smaller plus, German Novice class operators which have privileges could be even more effected. This is a very active portion of the spectrum.

Domestic and International Capabilities		
Frequencies	**Use**	**Direction**
37.5-42.0 GHz	Gateway/Feeder Links, Routine TT&C	space-to-Earth
47.2-50.2 GHz	Gateway/Feeder Links, Routine TT&C	Earth-to-space
50.4-51.4 GHz	Gateway/Feeder Links, Routine TT&C	Earth-to-space
Additional Non-U.S. Capabilities[29]		
Frequencies	**Use**	**Direction**
400-410 MHz	*Non-U.S.* Off-Nominal TT&C and Orbit-Raising Maneuvers	space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space
430-440 MHz	*Non-U.S.* Emergency TT&C Communications	space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space
45.5-47.0 GHz	*Non-U.S.* Gateway/Feeder Links	Earth-to-space
2025-2110 MHz	*Non-U.S.* Off-Nominal TT&C and Orbit-Raising Maneuvers	Earth-to-space
2200-2290 MHz	*Non-U.S.* Off-Nominal TT&C and Orbit-Raising Maneuvers	space-to-Earth

Table 1 – Gateway/Feeder Link and TT&C Frequencies

Texas-based AST wants to use the spectrum to operate its proposed fleet of 248 satellites that are designed to provide internet to smartphones in cellular dead zones in Europe. Mario Lorenz DL5MLO has been sounding the alarm and rallying Ham radio operators in Region 1 and they are sending comments and complaints to the FCC, expressing their concerns of interference. This all comes at a time with the FCC just approved AST to power a commercial satellite-to-phone service through the company's emerging satellite fleet.

At this time, AST has five BlueBird satellites in orbit, but plans to launch dozens of larger second-generation satellites in the coming months and years to directly compete with SpaceX's cellular Starlink service. The battle continues and also between SpaceX and other

tech companies for the same spectrum privileges.

So how does this effect hams in the US? It's believed that if AST is allowed to expand their fleet of satellites in orbit to the designed 248, the interference potential becomes extremely high. This issue is one we need to continue to watch here in the US. One concern is with AMSAT. Some of the frequencies used by AMSAT could be impacted by AST's system. If you look at the frequencies used by AMSAT in their down-links, it's obvious these are in the spectrum AST is wanting. More to come as this battle continues. As always, be vigilant!

For more info on this story, check out the link to Satnews: Satnews article .

RRI and ARRL Sign Memorandum of Understanding

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® (ARRL®) and Radio Relay International® (RRI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). [PDF] The formal agreement, signed by ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and RRI Board Chairman James Wades, WB8SIW, outlines the value the organizations find in cooperation.

See Press release: RRI and ARRL Press Release

ARRL, established in 1914, is the nation's leading advocacy organization for the Amateur Radio Service. ARRL's mission is to promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and to develop the next generation of radio amateurs. ARRL's 71 Sections across North America promote public service with ham radio through programs including the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and the National Traffic System® (NTS®). Radio Relay International® (RRI) was established in 2016 to enhance and promote effective nationwide messaging and emergency communications capabilities. Since its founding, RRI has developed an extensive work product consisting of a wide variety of training programs, a tested and evolved National Response Plan, and communications facilities designed to better prepare radio amateurs to serve their community in time of emergency. Central to these goals has been modernization of the NTS.

Both ARRL and RRI recognize the importance of effective public service and emergency communications, including the shared goal of modernizing and enhancing the National Traffic System. "*Coordination between our two organizations will prevent duplication of efforts and ensure that both the public and emergency services agencies have access to effective NTS disaster communications facilities*," said James Wades, Board Chair and Emergency Management Director for RRI.

The National Traffic System, created by ARRL in 1949, is a network of trained amateur radio operators who ensure the rapid transmission and relay of messages, or "traffic." In addition to basic voice and Morse code or "CW" communications networks, the NTS has recently been modernized through the addition of the Digital Traffic Network, as well as interoperable messaging gateways and specialized software templates developed in association with the Winlink Development Team, which operates an international radio email service well-suited to disaster response.

"*Through last year's hurricanes and the recent devastating floods in Texas, we're seeing amateur radio continue to be a vital tool before and during times of crisis*," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "*Amateur radio works When All Else Fails®, and traffic handling is an important part of that*," he said.

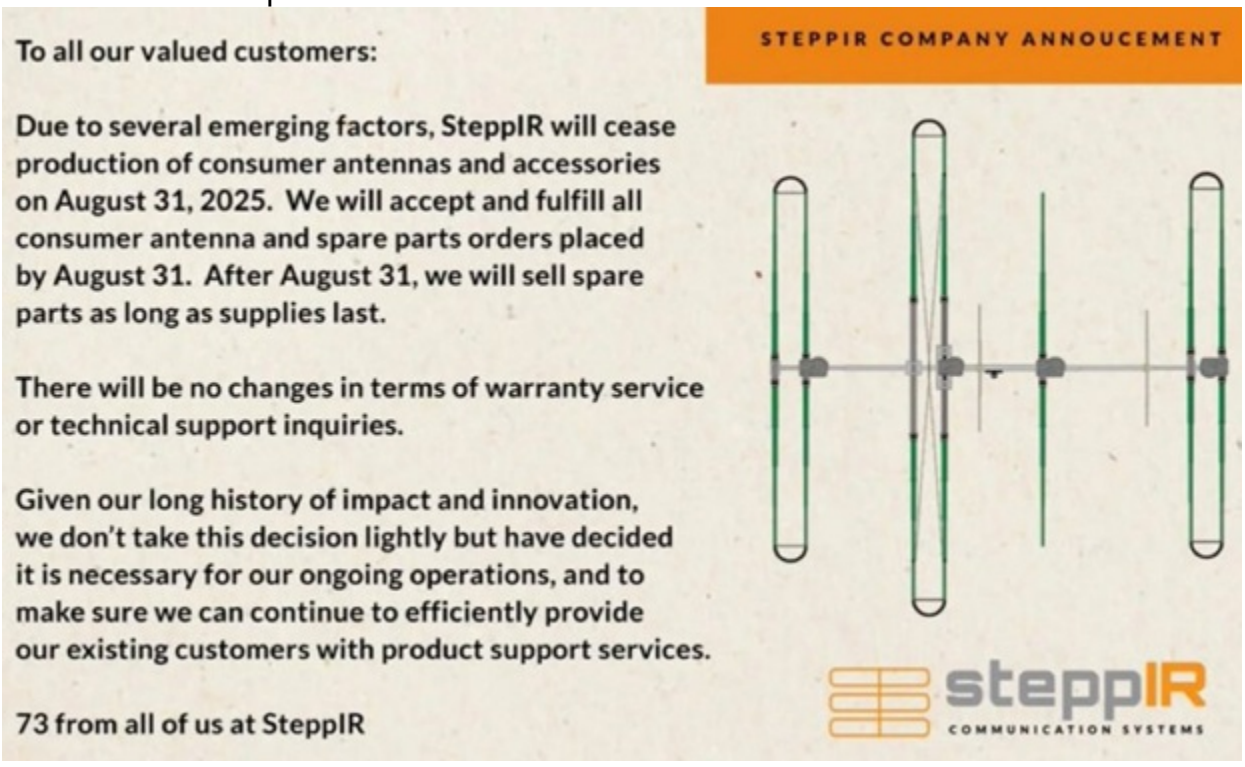
Future plans for the improvement of NTS include the development of additional robust HF digital networks, improved interoperability with local and state emergency communications organizations, and continued development of local and regional VHF and UHF digital "packet radio" network capabilities. Coordination between RRI and ARRL will play an important role in achieving these goals.

www.arrl.org/nts
https://radiorelay.org/

For more information contact:
James Wades, WB8SIW, Radio Relay International Board Chair radiorelayinternational@gmail.com and/or
Sierra Harrop, W5DX, ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager sharrop@arrl.org.

SteppIR Ceases Production for Amateur Market

SteppIR has been a popular and innovative company for many years producing fine antennas for the amateur radio community. However, on June 5th they released the following announcement to the public:



Since 2001, SteppIR has been a producer of quality, mechanically adjustable, remotely tuned, optimized antenna systems for commercial, military, emergency communications, and consumer markets. The amateur consumer market percentage is unknown but substantial. In addition, they provide turnkey commercial services and custom designs and onsite installations. So you can see the expansive markets they are involved in.

I'm sure many of you along with me a sad to see such a quality company leave the amateur market but we must understand that the current markets for amateur equipment are volatile with narrow margins of profitability as compared to other market lines. So, we may see more of these type of changes in some of the manufacturers over time. Remember, the amateur consumer market is only a small percentage of the diverse markets of most large manufacturing companies in the field of communications.

For example, Icom is involved in many communications markets with the amateur market sales only comprising about 17% of their total business. This is not necessarily the case with Yeasu or some of the other suppliers. To get a taste of the diversity of some of these companies, here is a link to Icom's Mid Term Business Plan published in May of 2023 covering their overall plans for the next three years.: Icom Mid Term Business Plan 2026. It is an interesting read and paints a comprehensive picture of their diversity. Even so, take comfort knowing the amateur consumer market (though it may be small) is still highly valued by companies like Icom and Yeasu so we should enjoy their support for decades to come.

Safety Stand-Down: Look Up and Live

Electricity is a killer. About 150 people die each year at work from contact with electricity, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Half of those are from contact with power lines. That data is just workplace deaths, so recreational and public service volunteering aren't even accounted for.

In a recent article, ARRL New Mexico Section Manager Bill Mader, K8TE, shared safety concerns and processes that can be implemented at ARRL Field Day sites. I'd like to share a simple phrase that may enhance your situational awareness: Look up and live.
"*Look up and live*" was drilled into me and every other television news employee who worked with electronic news gathering vehicles that had a pneumatic mast or satellite dish. It was the title of an industry-standard safety video published by the National Press Photographers Association.

In TV news, where I spent the first two decades of my professional career, there was always a deadline and often a tremendous sense of urgency at the scene of breaking news to get a live shot up first. Before the days of bonded cellular internet streaming, we used radio – microwave and satellite – to take viewers to the scene.

No matter the pressure from news managers, safety was paramount. When we approached a scene, we made sure to park the live truck at least 10 feet away from overhead wires to

comply with regulations. My personal minimum was two truck-lengths from any lines, ideally a whole mast-length. If I had a 58-foot mast, I'd try to park at least 58 feet away from the nearest power line.

Identifying overhead lines was ritualistic: As I arrived, I got out of the vehicle, walked 20 feet away, looked up and walked around the entire perimeter of the truck while deliberately searching for overhead lines and obstructions. This additional 45-second process could feel like an eternity when news was unfolding dramatically for me to capture and report – but I couldn't go live if I was dead.

In pursuit of our amateur radio hobby, we should apply even more diligence. There's no pressure to get on for a ham radio activation. Take your time, walk around, be diligent. Look up and live.

Portable masts, vertical antennas, wire antennas slung up into a tree – anything you put up can become energized if it contacts an overhead wire. Do not take chances. Even what appears to be a phone or fiber line could be carrying lethal voltages. Do not become the path to ground.

One additional tip that I hope never applies to a radio amateur: Should a vehicle you're in become energized by a fallen line or a mast erected into power lines, do not leave it unless it is on fire. Call for help via phone or ham radio. Yell at any bystanders to not approach your vehicle. Electricity spreads out from a path to ground in concentric rings of decreasing voltage. Being in contact with different voltages is what will kill you. If a fire requires you to exit, carefully jump clear of the vehicle so as to not contact the vehicle and ground simultaneously. Be mindful of your movements: "Bunny hop" with your feet together or shuffle your feet on the ground in small increments without lifting either of them. Do not provide a path between the different potentials by walking normally or by falling and catching yourself with your hands.

Please be careful when erecting portable gear within the wires environment.
Remember: **Look up and live.**

By Sierra Harrop, W5DX
ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager

TN Hamfests/Conventions – Let's Go!

I usually only list local TN hamfests in this section but I want to mention one of our favorite ham fests coming in August, Huntsville Hamfest for some of our newest hams that might spike their interest. Huntsville Hamfest will be on August 16-17 and for more info go to https://hamfest.org/.

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 – Elizabethan, TN. http://www.wr4cc.org

Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club – Hixon, 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.etdxa.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 Mountian 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/