



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator December 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.”

Merry Christmas!

ARRL TN Section/Division/National/International News

ARRL December Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features. [More info](#) | [Listen on Blubrry](#) | Also available on iTunes and Apple Podcasts.

ARRL December On-The-Air Podcasts

The *On the Air* podcast is a companion to the bimonthly **On the Air** magazine (an ARRL membership benefit) and takes a deeper dive into select features and projects. Each month, host and **On the Air** Editorial Director Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, will offer additional resources, techniques, and hints to help you get the most from the magazine's content. Go to <https://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-podcast>

ARRL Digital Magazine Issues This Month

QST Link: [December 2025 Issue](#)

On The Air Link: [November/December 2025 Issue](#)

QEX Link: [November / December 2025 Issue](#)

National Contest Journal Link: [December 2025/January 2026 Issue](#)

ARRL Launching Worked All States WAS-250 Award in 2026.

The WAS-250 Award requires Working All States between 0000 UTC January 1, 2026 and 2359 UTC December 31, 2026. Participating LoTW user seeking the WAS-250 Award must complete their uploads by January 31, 2027. Details of this event will be coming soon in a special bulletin.

ARRL Activating W1AW/portable again in 2026.

In celebration of “The Year of The Club” in 2026, ARRL will be activating W1AW/portable again. Activations will be twice through the year. Details of this event will be coming soon in a special bulletin.

2026 ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program is Still Accepting Applications

The scholarships were established by generous donors and are managed by the ARRL Foundation as a means to inspire youth to explore amateur radio and to pursue higher education and related career paths -- and especially in wireless communications.

In 2025, the ARRL Foundation awarded 170 awards totaling \$800,000. More information and the online application are available at <https://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program>.

The ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program has opened the application window for 2026 scholarships. Applications will be accepted through December 30, 2025, at 12 PM EST. Students are encouraged to apply for more than 170 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000. All applicants must be active, FCC-licensed amateur radio operators.

Tis The Season To Be Contesting!

Winter is upon us with snow and cold rains. Let's face it, the weather has turned and the temperatures and conditions are less than desirable for outside activities. What to do?

Contest! Grab a warm cup of coffee or cocoa, put on your most comfortable sweats or other lounging apparel, throw another log on the fire, power up the radios, point those beams and switch over to your favorite bands. It's time to CONTEST! But what contests are going on? The ARRL contests for the next 12 months are listed below. Here are the links to the contest calendar pdf and Contest section at the ARRL:

[2025 - 2026 Contest Calendar PDF](#)

<https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

The 2024 ARRL Annual Report: Promote, Protect, Inspire, Educate

The recently released ARRL 2024 Annual Report outlines new and strategic paths aimed at inspiring youth while building on ARRL's five pillars that continue to support members and amateur radio worldwide...Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology, and Membership.

"With membership totaling over 137,000 at the end of 2024, ARRL stands as the world's largest organization of radio amateurs," states the first page of the report, which also notes that the membership retention rate increased to 79.9%, up from 77.8% the previous year. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in his message in the report, shares how a visit to an amateur radio club changed his life forever, providing a foundation on which to build his years of involvement and enjoyment of ham radio.

"In 2024, the Board of Directors decided to prioritize reaching out to the next generation to inspire them about their future in STEM...science, technology, engineering, and math...and how ham radio can be part of their educational journey," said Roderick. *"This new 'third advocacy,' which was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors at the July 2024 meeting, is critical to the future not only of ham radio, but also to this country's budding STEM professionals."*

Among the initiatives highlighted in the report are the free ARRL Student Membership program, launched in May 2024 and significant growth for the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, which hosted a total of 85 teachers visiting from 31 states.

The report also recognizes that ARRL donors contributed more than \$2.1 million in 2024, fueling innovation, education, and investing in the future of amateur radio. The ARRL Diamond Club program set a record raising over \$1 million for the first time in the history of the program, which provides critical unrestricted revenue for ARRL programs above what membership dues alone can cover.

The annual report contains much more detailed information, personal stories, and insight into ARRL's increased investment and prioritization to develop the next generation of radio amateurs. Take some time to read the [2024 Annual Report](#).

ARRL Needs Your End-of-Year Donations

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) organization holding federal tax identification # 06-6000004. Contributions to ARRL funds are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. It is because of your generous donations that the ARRL is able to fund so many initiatives and programs to defend and enrich our wonderful radio hobby and services to our communities. Please consider contributing this year end and help us help you get more from Amateur Radio in 2026.

If you have already made a donation this year, THANK YOU! Your funds will go to help fund programs that simply can not be maintained by membership dues alone. Thanks for making a difference!

Send a Holiday Radiogram

ARRL and Radio Relay International (RRI) are encouraging radio amateurs to originate a holiday radiogram to friends and family members this year. *“The tradition of sending a Christmas radiogram should have a nostalgic feel that fits the holiday season well,”* wrote RRI Chairman James Wades, WB8SIW, in the December edition of The NTS Letter, a monthly newsletter of ARRL’s National Traffic System (NTS). *“Furthermore,”* added Wades, *“the delivery of a radiogram serves as a great public relations opportunity.”* RRI works closely with NTS. To send a Holiday Radiogram go to : <https://nts2.arrl.org/radiogram/>

“If one hasn’t originated a radiogram before,” Wades continued, *“there are some convenient tools, one of which is available from RRI (pdf) and the other of which is an online radiogram portal developed by K1RFD for the ARRL NTS2 Committee. Both methods allow people who have never sent a radiogram in their lives to originate a message to family or friends.”*

Wades encourages message originators to *“please make sure you have the correct, up-to-date address information for the recipient including both a phone number and email address,”* and to limit message texts to 25 words or less. You may also use ARRL Numbered Radiogram Texts “ARL Sixty One” (“Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”) or “ARL Sixty Two” (“Greetings and best wishes to you for a pleasant _____ holiday season”).

A couple of related notes for traffic handlers: ARRL and RRI have developed a Christmas season radiogram form for delivery of messages. In addition, the December NTS Letter reports on updates to “HX” handling instructions, including two new instructions and changes to others. See the issue for details. [NTS Newsletter](#)

The NTS Letter is a monthly online newsletter for participants in ARRL’s National Traffic System, a network of message-handling nets that date to the League’s earliest days. It is available free to all ARRL members.

Solar Activity Is Increasing!

The increase in solar activity since the beginning of December has finally confirmed the original assumption that the current 25th eleven year solar cycle will have two peaks. The first occurred last October, while we have been eagerly awaiting the second this year (especially in the fall). The increase in activity at the end of this summer started promisingly, but it was only the first of several. It was only after the large solar flare on November 11, 2025, which was the largest since October 3, 2024, that it was possible to estimate that the second maximum was approaching.

High solar activity period can be expected during the first half of December, A large coronal hole has formed that will bring the Earth some very fast wind and aroras in about 28 days. Also, there is a very active region rotating into Earth view this week that could bring some large solar flares. For more info go to: [ARRL Solar Report](#).



ARRL Year of the Club Website Contest — Call for Submissions!

See Your Club in QST!

ARRL has made 2026 the Year of the Club, a year-long celebration of ham radio clubs and everything they do for amateur radio. As just one way of honoring various clubs, QST will feature club photos in every 2026 issue. If your club wants a shot at being highlighted in the pages of QST, here's what to do:

- Get your club members together, looking their best — if you have a club t-shirt or ARRL shirts, this is a perfect occasion for wearing them.
- Consider posing with your club's sign/banner.
- Take high-resolution images. If you're taking photos with a phone camera, please make sure it's set for "highest quality."
- Take photos in horizontal and vertical orientations, and please do not crop or otherwise edit the photos.
- Type up the names and call signs of any hams pictured, the name (and call sign, if applicable) of the person who took the photos, and the full name and call sign of the club.
- Send the information, along with one vertical and one horizontal photo, to qst@arrl.org.
- Read QST each month in 2026 to see if your club has been featured!

Submission Deadline: Friday, January 30, 2026, 4 p.m. Eastern time.

NOTE: Once you send your Submission Form, you may update content (text, images, data) on your website as needed, per your club's normal operation, but you may not make

Operators/Monitors Wanted for Meteor Scatter QSO Party December 12-13

HamSCI — the Ham Radio Citizen Science Investigation program — is looking for “ping jockeys,” or ham radio operators who enjoy making contacts via meteor scatter (MS), to take part in its Meteor Scatter QSO Party during the Geminids meteor shower on December 12 and 13, 2025. Operation will take place on the 10-meter and 6-meter bands only (28.145 and 50.260 MHz), using the MSK144 digital protocol. The event is a combination on-air contest and data collection for what HamSCI describes as an experiment “*to analyze the feasibility of HF meteor scatter for future scientific research.*”

HamSCI pointed out that little research has been done on 10-meter meteor scatter, due to past symbol rate limits imposed by the FCC. Those limits were removed in early 2024.

The group is looking for both active operators (seeking and making contacts) and passive monitors, recording .WAV files of MS contacts and uploading them to PSK Reporter. Researchers will collect contact data from both 10 and 6 meters and will analyze that data offline, using PSK Reporter raw data, operator contact logs and .WAV files.

HamSCI says the best operating times will be between 8 PM and 8 AM local time, and suggests announcing CQs on “Ping Jockey Central” (especially for 10 meters) and the groups.io page of the Front Range Six Meter Group (especially for 6 meters).

For more information, including suggested operating procedures, visit <https://www.hamsci.org/msqp>.

Planning a Hamfest or Convention?

If your club is wanting to host a convention, hamfest, tailgate, or swapfest, please consider applying for it to be an ARRL-sanctioned event. To learn what it means to be an ARRL sanctioned event, and to get some ideas on how to plan for and conduct a hamfest or convention, visit <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events> for a planner and all the rules.

To have your event sanctioned, complete the online application at www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application. The ARRL Hamfests and Conventions Calendar can be found online at <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>. In addition, the Convention and Hamfest Calendar that runs in QST each month also presents information about upcoming events.

Tennessee Hamfests/Conventions

The 2026 Hamfest Calendar is beginning to populate and schedules are being set. It is time to make your travel plans. Of course with Christmas coming and Santa bringing you new radio gear, it's also time to clean off the shelves of the old stuff, reserve those tables, and get ready to sell next year. So, here are the events planned for 2026 so far:

03/13/2026 - 03/14/2026 - MTARS Hamfest - Tullahoma, TN.

04/18/2026 - Greeneville Hamfest – Greenville, TN.

06/13/2026 - Knoxville Hamfest, ARRL Convention – Knoxville, TN.

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. <http://tnpost104.org/al4us/>

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/>