



**ARRL** The National Association for  
**Amateur Radio®**

## *ARRL East TN. Affiliated Club January 2026 Newsletter*

*“Please distribute 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.”*

# ***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

## ***2026 – The Year Of The Club***

### ***ARRL TN Section/Division/National/International News***

#### ***ARRL Audio News***

Listen to the latest audio news from ARRL at: [January 2026 News](#)

#### ***ARRL Digital Magazine Issues This Month***

QST Link: [January 2026 Issue](#)

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

QEX Link: [January / February 2026 Issue](#)

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

#### ***Happy Belated Birthday to Dick Van Dyke***

He celebrated his 100th birthday on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Van Dyke served as a narrator for the ARRL film, “*The World of Amateur Radio*.” The film, shot in the mid-70’s, presents a then-

contemporary introduction to amateur radio aimed at newcomers and the general public. Commissioned by ARRL and produced by Dave Bell Productions, the film updated earlier ARRL outreach material with then-modern production values and contemporary subject matter. Also on the film were Roy Neal, K6DUE (SK), then a correspondent for NBC News; then-U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (SK); former Navy radio operator and TV/radio host Arthur Godfrey, K4LIB (SK), and Hollywood Producer Dave Bell, W6AQ (SK). As an outreach and educational resource, the film served ARRL's efforts to introduce a new generation to amateur radio at a time of rapid technological change. To view the vintage film on YouTube go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CVnzNNSsdU>

### ***New Technician Class Question Pool Released -- Effective July 1, 2026***

On December 18, 2025, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) released the revised 2026-2030 Technician Class (Element 2) question pool. It will be required for all exam sessions beginning July 1, 2026. The new pool includes 409 questions (27 new, 30 removed, and about 155 modified), compared to 412 in the prior pool. The pool also includes three diagrams used for some of the questions.

This updated question pool incorporates significant changes compared to the prior pool. The questions were checked for technical accuracy and relevance to current amateur radio practices, as well as for grammar, syntax, format, clarity, and for redundancy within and between the pools.

VECs and Volunteer Examiners must use test designs based on the new pool starting on July 1, 2026. Current ARRL VEC Technician Class exam booklets (2022 series) and computer-generated Technician Class exams created from the 2022 question pool are valid until June 30. After that, old versions should be destroyed.

ARRL will have new editions of Technician Class study materials, including The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual, Gordon West Technician Class License Prep book, and ARRL's Tech Q&A, by May 2026. View all question pools on the NCVEC website. <https://www.ncvec.org/>

### ***ARRL has earned a 2025 Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency.***

Originally founded in 1994 and known by many as GuideStar, the organization became the largest source for information about nonprofits. Candid was formed in 2019 following the merger of GuideStar and Foundation Center, and helps donors to find ARRL and learn about the organization's impact. Members and prospective donors can visit [ARRL's profile](#) on Candid to see how donations help extend our reach in serving the amateur radio community and developing the next generation of hams. [Candid Seal ARRL Profile](#)

### ***TN ARES District 7 Hosting A Multi-state Amateur Radio Conference Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>.***

TN ARES District 7 DEC, STEVE Weber, KA4ELN, is hosting a multi-state, amateur radio conference in Cleveland, TN, 17JAN2026 from 8:30am – 2:00pm. This will be an excellent opportunity to network with TN and surrounding State communications managers and ARRL leaders. There are 7 guest speakers including TN DHS Dewey Woody of Homeland Security and Greg Smith of Georgia Emergency Management. Contact Steve if you plan to attend at [ka4eln@gmail.com](mailto:ka4eln@gmail.com) .



## **ARRL 2026 - Year of the Club Website Contest**

A club website can keep members informed of news and upcoming events, keep them interested between meetings and activities, teach them about ham radio skills and technology, or even make them laugh, remember, or set an operating goal — the sky's the limit! As part of ARRL's Year of the Club celebration in 2026, ARRL wants to see your club's website. Enter the Club Website Contest for the chance to have your website honored in QST. Here are the rules and requirements: <https://www.arrl.org/year-of-the-club>

The Club Website Contest is open to ARRL Affiliated Clubs that maintain a club website. Submissions must include a completed Club Website Contest Submission Form, which asks for information about your club and its website, as well as a 500-word statement on the purpose or goals of your website, and how the features and configuration of the website fulfill the purpose/goals. Part of the judging process will include a comparison of your statement with the website itself. Winners will be notified in May 2026, with awards presented at Huntsville Hamfest in August 2026.

Winners will be announced in a 2026 issue of QST, as part of ARRL's Year of the Club celebration. The QST article may present material from the 500-word statements supplied in the winners' Club Website Contest Submission Form. Please note that winners may be asked to supply high-resolution files of specific website pages.

**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 significant changes to the site's structure or functionality until April 1, 2026.**

## ***\$25,000 of Awards For New ARRL Student Coding Competition***

Registration is now open for the **Student Coding Competition**, a new national challenge sponsored by ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®. The project is designed to engage young radio amateurs in shaping the future of amateur radio through software development. Open to ARRL member amateur radio operators aged 21 and younger, the competition will invite students to design a mobile app that supports ARRL and the amateur radio community. Cash awards totaling up to \$25,000 will be presented to one or more winning entries.

**The competition officially begins on January 1, 2026**, when complete rules and application specifications will be released at [coding.arrl.org](https://coding.arrl.org). Participants are reminded not to start coding yet — entries must follow the published requirements. **Project submissions will be due by March 31, 2026**. Entries will be judged on how well they meet the specifications, user interface design and usability, code quality and stability, and the inclusion of extra features. Adult ARRL members are encouraged to help spread the word and support the next generation of amateur radio innovators. ARRL Student Membership is free for full-time students aged 21 and younger, removing a key barrier to participation. Young hams, educators, and mentors are encouraged to preregister now at <https://www.arrl.org/student-coding-competition> to receive updates as additional details become available and to prepare for this exciting opportunity to contribute lasting tools to amateur radio.

## ***Obsolete Part 97 Rules Delete February 10, 2026***

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October 2025 adopted a Report and Order to delete almost 400 obsolete rules pertaining to its wireless services. As previously reported by ARRL, among the deletions were four in Part 97 that govern the Amateur Radio Service. ARRL reports that the notice of the Report and Order has now been published in the Federal Register. Unless an objection is raised by January 2 that the Commission finds to deserve its consideration, the following four Part 97 provisions will be deleted as of February 10, 2026:

1. **§ 97.27**. This provision is duplicative of a statutory provision related to the FCC's right to modify station licenses.
2. **§ 97.29**. This provision specified an obsolete procedure to replace paper licenses. ARRL proposed deleting this section in comments filed earlier this year.
3. **§ 97.315 (b)(2)**. This obsolete provision grandfathered HF amplifiers purchased before April 28, 1978 by an amateur radio operator for use at that operator's station, and grandfathered those manufactured before April 28, 1978, for which a marketing waiver was issued.
4. **§ 97.521(b) and Appendix 2**. This rule and appendix relate to obsolete VEC regions.

## ***TN MTEARS – Have You Checked in Lately?***

### **What is MTEARS you ask?**

MTEARS stands for Middle Tennessee Emergency Amateur Repeater System. It is a network of UHF repeaters that serves as a liaison during severe weather events, allowing storm spotters to report weather conditions to the National Weather Service (NWS). The system is designed to facilitate communication and provide warnings and updates on severe weather events, ensuring that emergency responders and citizens can stay informed.

There are dedicated MTEARS UHF-only linked repeaters across TN serving as a liaison network during severe weather. Individual storm spotters continue to use their local frequencies and report weather conditions to their local organization. When an organization receives a report of a tornado, funnel cloud, or other severe weather criteria (such as hail 0.75 inches in diameter or larger, or winds greater than 57 mph), a liaison from the local spotter organization relays the report to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Amateur radio operators at the National Weather Service Office provide warnings, weather summaries, and radar information to the liaisons, who then pass the information on to their local networked spotters and citizens are encouraged to monitor these frequencies, but to limit traffic on this network to criteria specific damage reports.

A number of meteorologists at the National Weather Service Nashville office are amateur radio operators and communicate with the spotters on the MTEARS Repeater Link System. Routinely, when MTEARS goes active due to weather conditions, Net Control Operators will monitor the network for damage reports and report NWS updates to counties being affected.

For more information go to: <https://mtears.org/> There you will find detailed information concerning repeaters, maps, and updated status of the system. This is another great service to our state residents involving amateur radio operators. **Thanks to all the volunteers and spotters in TN that help keep our residents informed and safe!**

## ***TN 3.980 Mhz- National Traffic System Training in February***

Mark your calendars! **On the four Tuesday evenings in February, 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th** for about 45 minutes each night starting around 6:15 pm central time, WW3B – John Hickman will provide detailed instruction on creating, sending, and receiving traffic. Enrollment will be in a couple of weeks and announced on the 3980 Nets. Afterwards, all materials will be emailed to all enrolled participants by WD4LAR Harrell Davidson. Training will begin after the regular Tuesday evening 3980 phone net is over so time may vary a few minutes depending on the net lengths. **All ARES members are encouraged to participate.** This is a skill all amateur radio operators should have!

For more information contact our TN Section Traffic Manager, **WD4LAR Harrell Davidson:** [WD4LAR@gmail.com](mailto:WD4LAR@gmail.com)

## ***It's That Time Again – 2026 Affiliated Club Reports***

At the end of 2025 many clubs have elections for new officers and for various reasons, website addresses change, officers change, and club contact information can change. We at ARRL want to make sure all hams can find a club in their respective areas and contact that club when needed. So, each year we need to get the most current information from each club.

The club update area is active all year long and allows you to edit information in your club record and also upload photos of your club activities as often as needed. When something changes, please update your club record at ARRL. **The club update is your required Annual Report.** Affiliated clubs must update their record at least once per year even if nothing changes. The club update is how we know that the club is still in business and keeps the contact information current for ARRL and prospective hams to get in touch with your club. **Please note should two years pass without an update your club will be listed as inactive.**

Follow this link for a step by step instructional overview of how to use the editing system:  
[How To Update Club Information](#)

**NOTE: Only the members listed as Contact or Officers will be able to EDIT and You must be logged into the ARRL web site to use the editing system.**

If you have trouble updating your club's information, please contact your ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator (me) for help at [KM4IYQ@arrl.net](mailto:KM4IYQ@arrl.net). I'll be glad to help.

**Dudley Pitts**  
**ARRL E. TN. ACC**

## ***Winter Field Day January 24-25th.***

**What is Winter Field Day and why?** Winter Field Day is an event designed to help amateur radio operators improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities in adverse conditions, plan and simple. It presents an opportunity for amateurs to communicate on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands using voice, CW, and digital transmission modes, making contacts and testing equipment. With the Winter we're having this year conditions could be very unknown!

The event is designed with specific objectives to encourage diverse challenges such as non-commercial power sources, setup and use of various types of antennas, satellite contacts, and much more. It's exciting and offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations and make contacts with other operators around the world. **ARES groups especially should use this opportunity to test their deployment and communication skills and equipment.** Also, you're not required to work in teams. (*even though it's more fund that way.*) And yes, you can participate at home in the comfort of your own shack so you don't have to end up taking turns heating up cold pizza over a propane heater..... yeah I did that one year!

Winter Field Day is organized by the **Winter Field Day Association**. The association strongly believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns. I have to agree. Cold hands and heavy apparel does present a unique challenges. So get out there and “test your metal”. We all say we like the aspect of amateur radio for emergency preparedness.... Well now's your chance to prove just that! For all the rules and details go to: <https://winterfieldday.org/index.php#about> And remember, it's not a contest. It's just fun and a way to challenge yourself.

So, get planning and breakout the heavy Winter gear. Let's have some fun. I'll be listening for you!

73 and stay safe and warm as best you can,

**Dudley Pitts**  
**ARRL E. TN. ACC**

**NOTE:** “If your pizza freezes, about 1 ½ minutes over a propane heater or torch should heat it to a turn... depending on ambient temperatures your dealing with.”

## ***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 <http://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.

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

The 2026 Hamfest Calendar is populating fast and schedules being set. It's time to make your travel plans. So, here are the events planned for 2026 so far:

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

<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/mtars-hamfest-tullahoma-tn>

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

<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/greeneville-hamfest-6>

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

<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/knoxville-hamfest-arrl-tennessee-state-convention-2>

**09/19/2026 - W4DXCC by SEDCO – Pigeon Forge, TN.**

<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/w4dxcc-by-sedco-2>

To search for all other ham fests go to: <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

## ***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. <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/](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.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 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/>