



ARRL East TN. Affiliated Club March 2026 Newsletter



“Please distribute this newsletter to all your fellow club members. And remember, 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 for all.”

Announce Affiliated Club Special Events In This ACC Newsletter

If you would like to have your affiliated club's upcoming special events advertised in this newsletter, simply email the information to your ACC, Dudley Pitts at [“km4iyq@arrl.net”](mailto:km4iyq@arrl.net). Since the newsletter is written prior to the month's issue, please send your planned event info a month in advance so it can be included and distributed on time.

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

ARRL Audio News

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

ARRL Digital Magazine Issues This Month

QST Link: [March 2026 Issue](#)

On The Air Link: [February/March 2026 Issue](#)

QEX Link: [March/April 2026 Issue](#)

National Contest Journal Link: [February/March 2026 Issue](#)

ARRL TN Section Newsletter

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ym7gVG-yBfJEgCO79Kbckkj24qV6lmjL/edit>

Where Have All The Sunspots Gone?

This past week has brought the first "spotless days" since 2022. So far, Feb. 22nd and Feb. 23rd have had completely blank suns. There have been no sunspots on the solar disk, breaking an uninterrupted 4 years of non-stop sunspot activity. What does this mean? It's an early warning of Solar Minimum, the low point of the 11-year solar cycle. During years around Solar Minimum, whole months can go by without a single sunspot, racking up dozens of spotless days in a row. Between 2018 and 2020 (the last Solar Minimum) there were more than 700 spotless days in total. Solar Cycle 25 still has years of life left in it. However, these spotless days tell us that the current cycle is waning. Sunspots will be back--probably tomorrow--but this past few weeks of February is a preview of things to come. For more information go to <https://www.spaceweather.com/> .

New Book Release: Digital Networking for Ham Radio

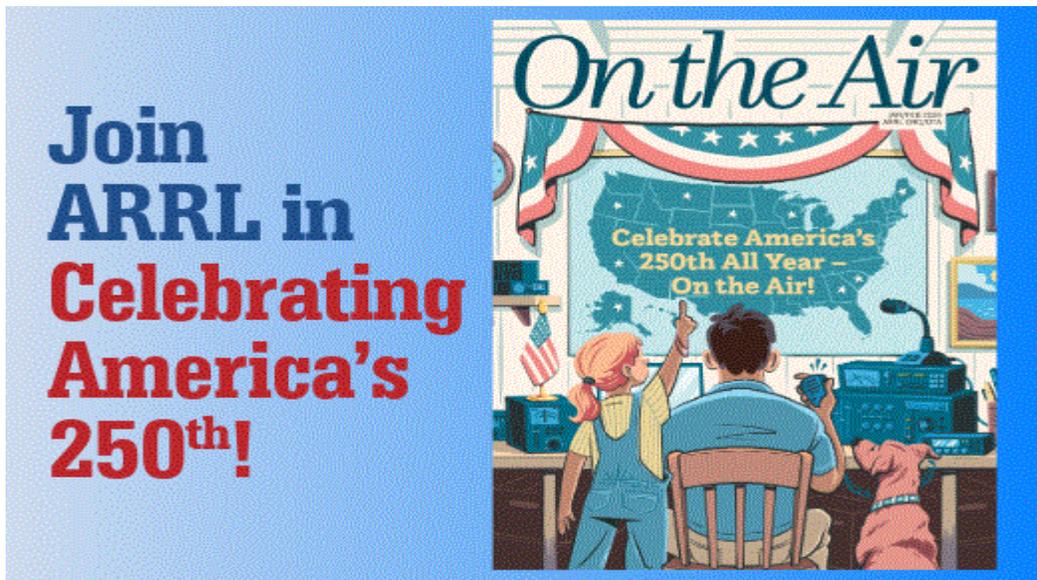
ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®'s new book, **Digital Networking for Ham Radio**, a practical, hands-on guide to designing and implementing high-speed data networks for amateur radio stations, is now shipping. Written by Glen Popiel, KW5GP, the book brings together in one comprehensive resource the knowledge needed to build, configure, and expand digital networks for ham radio. From TCP/IP fundamentals to deploying mesh technologies such as AREDN®, HamWAN, and Meshtastic®, readers will find clear explanations and step-by-step guidance. For more info got to: <https://www.arrl.org/news/new-book-release-digital-networking-for-ham-radio>.

Icom America Named Official Sponsor of the ARRL 2026 Year Of The Club

ARRL announced that Icom is the official sponsor of the 2026 Year of the Club, supporting the initiatives that spotlight and strengthen ARRL affiliated clubs throughout 2026.

The 9th Annual HamSci Workshop March 14th -15th. Registration End March 3rd.

The workshop will be hosted by ARRL at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut, and brings together radio amateurs and citizen scientists. Registrants will enjoy a private tour of nearby ARRL Headquarters. Check out the full agenda and registration details at <https://hamsci.org/hamsci2026>.



2026 ARRL America250 Worked All States

What is the ARRL America250 Worked All States? A Year-Long Worked-All-States Operating Event Celebrating the 250th Anniversary (Sesquicentennial) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In similar fashion to the 2014 ARRL Centennial Celebration, and the 2018 International Grid Chase, and 2023 Volunteer's On The Air events, this event will be exclusively driven only by QSOs uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW).

Highlights of the Worked All States event:

Summary:

The America250-WAS begins as a Basic Worked All States Award by contacting all 50 States in 2026.

Endorsements:

- Contacting W1AW/Portable stations in all 50 States.
- Contacting ARRL Affiliated Club Call Signs in all 50 States.
- Contacting all 50 States on CW and Phone and Digital for a 'TRIPLE PLAY'.

Working All States toward achieving your America250 WAS by contacting W1AW/Portable Stations:

There will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/portable stations in all 50 states, and potentially in several US Possessions/Territories, that will generate on-air activity to achieve this unique WAS Award. For this operating event, ARRL will provide a listing of all W1AW/portable stations, who will each operate for 7 days (from a Wednesday through the following Tuesday) for 2 separate weeks in the year (an early week between January and July, and a late week between July and December). A few weeks will be listed as non-W1AW/portable weeks due to contests and ARRL Field Day.

There will be three (3) specialty Endorsements, including:

- Earn WAS by contacting W1AW/portable stations in all 50 states (applying for this

endorsement will become possible sometime into July or thereafter when the first wave of 50-state activations is completed and the second wave of state activations is underway - ending December 31, 2026).

- Earn WAS by contacting ARRL Affiliated Club stations in all 50 states (see our Club Search web page to determine the locations and call signs of ARRL Affiliated Clubs).
- Earn WAS Triple Play by contacting all 50 states on all three modes (CW/Phone/Digital)

Objective

While the object of the America250 WAS event is to make as many contacts with W1AW/portable states as possible, on as many bands and modes as possible (except 60 Meters), all operators are encouraged to explain celebrating America's 250th anniversary with the ARRL America250 WAS Award to the degree that your operating time allows.

Bands

Activity is encouraged on all US FCC authorized bands (including WARC bands) from 2200 meters LF through all of HF, through all of VHF/UHF/SHF, and up through all of the microwave bands including via light (but excluding 60 Meters) via peer-to-peer (eg, FM simplex) RF contacts (contacts made through Linking Systems or Repeaters will not count).

QSLs

There are no planned QSL cards for any of the W1AW/Portable America250 WAS operating event stations during this event. All W1AW/portable contacts will be confirmed via LoTW.

Stations who contact W1AW at ARRL HQ can upload such contacts to LoTW and/or send QSL cards (with SASE) to W1AW, ARRL HQ, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 — for contacts only made directly with the W1AW Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station.

America250 WAS Applications

Applications for the America250 WAS Award must be made via LoTW once a minimum of 50 state QSO confirmations appear in LoTW for contacts made in 2026. To apply within LoTW, look at your usual LoTW WAS page summaries, which will show your progress toward the America250 Award, then when applying in LoTW, the usual WAS Award processing fees will be displayed for the America250 certificate (with endorsements where earned) and shipping.

After the initial America250 Award certificates are issued, endorsements can be sought. These will be supplied as America250 endorsement stickers (in a fashion similar to as shown in the certificate illustration above) that you can affix to your America250 Award certificate. Contact awards@arrl.org with any questions.

NOTE: Tennessee Section has a W1AW Coordinator for scheduling W1AW activators across the state, **Catherine Goodrich** w4cmg.dx@gmail.com. Clubs can sign up for multiple shifts on assigned dates. The specific times, bands and modes within the requested shifts will be assigned as we get closer to the event, and will be communicated around mid May. If your club would like to activate as a W1AW station, please contact **Dudley Pitts** at km4iyq@arrl.net or **Dale Darling** at w9wba640@gmail.com for scheduling a time slot. We hope your club will join in the fun this year!

APRIL



HAM RADIO OPEN HOUSE

World Amateur Radio Day 2026 is April 18

www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day



Calling All Clubs - Plan Now for The April Ham Radio Open House

ARRL is inviting radio clubs to participate in the second annual Ham Radio Open House in April. Hosting an Open House gives clubs and schools the opportunity to promote amateur radio science and technology by opening their stations to the public and showcasing their hi-tech gear and operating skills.

In addition, clubs are encouraged to set up in public places or conduct outdoor activities, such as a Parks on the Air (POTA) activations or satellite operating demonstrations. The event centers around **World Amateur Radio Day on Saturday, April 18**, but clubs may schedule an open house at any time during the month.

Ham Radio Open House highlights the Amateur Radio Service as a platform for developing and practicing modern radio communications technology, and as a hands-on pathway into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields for the next generation. The event offers clubs the chance to reshape perceptions of amateur radio and demonstrate how it serves as a steppingstone and testbed for young people pursuing STEM education and high-tech careers. As ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, writes in his March QST editorial, *“the notion of hams sitting in Grandpa’s basement listening to tube radios is quickly dispelled when visitors see a modern transceiver and computer being used to work the world!”*

Clubs are encouraged to demonstrate the latest digital modes, such as FT8 using WSJT-X. This is an excellent opportunity to explore emerging areas of amateur radio and show how the service remains at the forefront of wireless innovation.

For example, visitors might see a Software-Defined Radio (SDR) waterfall display, hear the corresponding signal, and watch the decoded message appear on screen — a powerful demonstration of how modern amateur radio works.

World Amateur Radio Day, observed annually on April 18, is celebrated worldwide by radio amateurs and their national associations, organized as member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president.

The inaugural ARRL Ham Radio Open House last year coincided with IARU's centennial celebrations. This year's activity is part of ARRL's "**Year of the Club**" theme. Clubs should watch for additional resources to help organize and promote their events. An interactive, map-based Ham Radio Open House Locator is available.

Find details at: <https://www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day>.



Who Says Youth Aren't Interested in Amateur Radio?

You know, I hear this from at least one person at every ham fest I go to. Fortunately, it's simply not true. Youth in amateur radio is growing every year all around the world. Don't believe me? Watch this little video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x6x_6mDVIQ&t=261s

The ARRL is right there standing side-by-side with congressional leaders all the way down to local school systems and civic organizations providing FREE training and support. We also offer financial incentives to help with the costs in licensing through **The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program**. Candidates younger than 18-years old would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC) VE team at the time of the exam. Additionally, ARRL will cover the one-time \$35 FCC application fee for

new license candidates younger than 18-years old for tests administered under the auspices of the ARRL VEC. The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Visit the Youth Licensing Grant Program webpage for more information and for the reimbursement instructions at: <https://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program> .

Our future is in our hands everyday! We can't change what happened yesterday. It's what we do today and tomorrow that really matters. I read a story along time ago about a man that walked from the east coast to the west coast of America. He was asked by an interviewer how he did it? The man looked at the interviewer and said, " one step at a time". Great things can be achieved if we just take that first step! So, I challenge you to take that first step and begin a journey of shaping our future by building a Youth Program in your club. Our youth are our future and deserve our attention.

If your club would like to embrace the future, then start building an active "Youth Program" in your community, there is a wealth of resources and information at <https://www.arrl.org/youth>. Make a difference in a young person's life and share the fun! Who knows, you might inspire a budding engineer and set them on a life-long path of research and development and creativity.

Every Club Needs A Mentoring Program

Mentoring has long been the backbone of Amateur Radio. While technology constantly evolves, the human interaction between hams will not be replaced and will always remain one of the hobby's strongest traditions. As licensed hams we are all ambassadors of Amateur Radio and we should always be looking at ways in which we can welcome newly licensed hams and project a positive image that will attract others to ham radio. We've all been there as a "newbie" in amateur radio and having a Mentor is a real game changer and in most cases determines if a newly licensed ham gets frustrated or continues to learn, grow, and advance.

Mentors are also needed in the classroom settings. A Mentor is someone dedicated to helping other amateurs expand their knowledge and skill in Emergency Communications and other technical subjects important to the amateur community. It's a very important role in education.

Mentors are also expected to keep themselves current with the course material as it is updated over time, but this doesn't mean that you have to know every detail. When a student asks a question, you can look up the answer in your own course material or ask for assistance from other mentors to make sure you're delivering the right answer. Teachers have known for years that the best way to learn something is to teach it. Mentoring is the next best thing since you get questions about the material you may never have thought about. Mentoring is sure to stretch your knowledge in ways you never expected.

To learn more, go to: <https://www.arrl.org/mentoring-online-courses>



Take Your Club To The Next Level

Has your club grown and expanded its capabilities and programs over the years? Your club may be ready to “level up” to an ARRL Special Service Club. What is a Special Service Club you ask?

A club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio is what defines a Special Service Club (SSC). They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.

As an ARRL Special Service Club applicant, an agreement is made to develop skills in these specified areas during the past two years in accordance with the guidelines in the Active Club On-Line Primer. (<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/ARRL%20Club%20Primer-rev%20March%202025.pdf>) Your Affiliated Club Coordinator (me, Dudley Pitts) can help with making sure you are working in the right areas to qualify. We can discuss your successes and problems during the past year, reviewed your current strengths and weaknesses and agreed on an acceptable program to help you meet the qualifications for a two year period.

For more information and application info go to: <https://www.arrl.org/ssc-application> .

MARCONI



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

The Marconi Program Can Help Your Club

The MARCONI Program was developed by the **Meriden Amateur Radio Club (MARC)** as part of a grant awarded through the ARRL Club Grants Program that began in September 2022. The Project is designed to assist clubs to become more active and engaged with their members and their local community. The name MARCONI references both an early innovator in radio communications, and is an acronym for ***“Motivating Amateur Radio Clubs to Open New Initiatives.”***

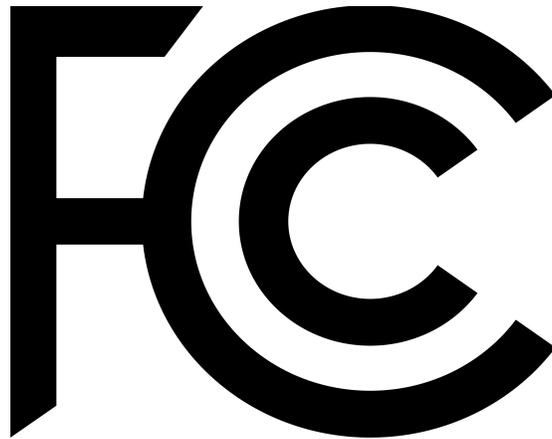
Developed as part of the suite of offerings in the MARCONI Program are Activity Programs available to clubs. For a complete list of the available resources go to:

<https://www.arrl.org/marconi-program>.

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.



FCC Requires FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change

ARRL reports that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the CORES system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

Because every FCC licensee—including amateur radio operators—must have an FRN to file applications, this requirement applies to all licensed amateurs. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a license in the License Manager System. Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update.

Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN or license contact information. Instead, the amateur rules at sections *97.21 and 97.23* provide that a license may be suspended or revoked “if FCC correspondence is returned as undelivered because of an incorrect address/email.” These provisions remain in effect as well as the 10-day deadline applicable to FRN information.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the CORES and License Manager Systems to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred.

The new deadline (*section 1.8002(b)(2) of the Commission’s Rules*) became effective on February 5 as part of a proceeding that was limited to further constraining robocalls. Although the proceeding focused on robocall issues, the 10-day update requirement applies broadly to all FRN holders. On February 6 the FCC confirmed in a Public Notice that the new deadline applies to all FRN holders. The amendment replaces language adopted in 2001 that required FRN holders to keep their contact information up-to-date but had not imposed a deadline for doing so.

Numerous requests for clarification from non-robocaller interests led the FCC to issue a Public Notice on February 6 ([See PDF Document](#)) clarifying that fines imposed on those subject to the robocall rules for not keeping contact information up-to-date do NOT apply to licensees such as radio amateurs, but that the 10-day deadline does apply to all FRN holders.

See the following resources for updating FRN and license information.

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information:

https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update_FRN_Information.htm

ARRL information on how to update license information:

<https://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes>

For assistance, **call the FCC FRN Help Desk: (877) 480-3201 (available 8 AM to 6 PM ET).**

[TN Hamfests/Conventions](#)

The 2026 Ham Fest Calendar is populating fast and schedules being set. It's time to make your travel plans. 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>

03/21/2026 – Sevier County TN Hamfest – Sevierville, TN.

<https://seviercountyars.com/>

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>

07/18/2026 – McMin County ARC Ham Fest – Athens, TN.

<https://mcminnarc.github.io/mcarc-website/>

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>

March Radio Sports and Contests

ARRL contests for each month is featured here, along with resources for world-wide contesting information. A generic ARRL contest calendar is also provided that gives the dates for all our events, to assist with long-term planning of your contest operations. ARRL contests this month:

March 7-8th – International DX Phone. - <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

For a printable PDF copy of the ARRL Contest Calendar for the year go to:

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Calendar/ARRL%20Contests%20Calendar%202025-2026.pdf>

For a PDF of all contests going on in March go to: <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2026/March%202026%20Corral.pdf>

Handy ARRL Links

- ARRL Home: www.arrl.org
- ARRL Property/Liability Club and Personal Insurance: <https://www.arriinsurance.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/>