



ARRL East TN. Affiliated Club May 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: [May 2026 News](#)

ARRL Digital Magazine Issues This Month

QST Link: [May 2026 Issue](#)

On The Air Link: [May / June 2026 Issue](#)

QEX Link: [May / June 2026 Issue](#)

National Contest Journal Link: [April / May 2026 Issue](#)

ARRL TN Section Newsletter

[Latest Issue of the ARRL TN Section Newsletter](#)

Hy-Gain and Cushcraft Gets New Life!

ITU Corporation has purchased the former Linton National Guard Armory to serve as the new manufacturing hub for Hy-gain and Cushcraft. ITU acquired from MFJ Enterprises these two brands and will be centralizing production at the 15-acre Linton site. The ITU team have stated a commitment to American-made quality and customer satisfaction. They bring the engineering and manufacturing expertise to keep these American high-performance antennas radio active for years to come. The move will take about two months before manufacturing will begin.

Going To Dayton Hamfest 2026 This Year? You Might Give This A Watch

Tim Duffy K3LR, CEO of DX Engineering has some great news to share. Check out the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNZblg1Xhkc>

How About R.O.T.A. - Recliners On The Air - Radio Sport or What?

Ever wanted to bring your radio experience into the Living Room? Take a look at this interesting idea from Paul N4FTD. I have to say I kind of like this idea:

https://rotaradio.wordpress.com/?utm_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

SteppIR Makes A Comeback To Amateur Radio

In a message posted to the [SteppIR website](#), the company has announced their return to the amateur radio market. SteppIR originally exited the amateur radio market back in June of 2025. Going forward, their products will be available through online sales. "We will be bringing back select antennas that will be purchased as kits on our website – Urban Beam Yagi 40m-6m (dipole on 40m/30m), 3 element Yagi 20m-6m, 4 element Yagi 20m-6m. The 3E and 4E Yagi will also have the 40/30 loop dipole option available." Says spoke person at SteppIR. Warranty and services will accompany new sales.

New ARRL Event App Now Available For Dayton

Use the ARRL Events app to make sure you don't miss a thing. The ARRL events app is produced by ARRL The National Association® for Amateur Radio in partnership with Dayton Hamvention. <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/arrl-events/id1456131489>

From ARRL TN Section Manager David Thomas

Spring is here and the "hamfest scene" in the Tennessee Section is really heating up. Every year, Tennessee kicks off in Tullahoma with the MTARS Hamfest. This year I was happy to have Assistant Section Manager Dale Darling W9WBA at the ARRL table where we signed up a new member and took several renewals. The Middle TN Amateur Radio Society always puts on a great event, and this year was definitely no exception. I was out of town the weekends of the next two hamfests, and really missed seeing everyone. ARES SEC Jim Snyder AJ4NO and Dale W9WBA at the ARRL booth in Sevierville at the Sevier County Amateur Radio Society's annual hamfest in March. It was reported that your TN Section ARRL Officials spoke with literally hundreds of amateur radio operators who passed by the league table in Sevierville.

In April, the Delta Amateur Radio Club in Memphis was re-born as the "Radio-Active Mid-South Expo" and was proud to be at a new and improved venue. From all reports, these changes were very well received and the event was a big success. Congratulations Delta ARC! Tennessee Section Public Information Coordinator Sky McCracken KO4DKI and Assistant Section Manager Tom Vickers N4TV joined our Delta Division Director David Norris K5UZ at the ARRL booth.

The weekend after the Memphis Expo, the 12th annual Andrew Johnson Amateur Radio Club hamfest was at the Greene County Fairgrounds. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to speak with lots of folks from all over East TN in Greeneville this year.

The next big event is the annual Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville's 59th annual Hamfest and Electronics Exposition on June 13. This event is in its 3rd year at Wallace Memorial Baptist Church, a venue that offers lots of nice boneyard space, air-conditioned indoor flea market and vendor space, and a comfortable auditorium for forums and meetings. The annual ARRL Tennessee Section Convention will be at the hamfest this year along with a state-wide Tennessee ARES meeting. A special added attraction this year will be W1AW operating portable from the hamfest. Everyone is invited to drop by the club's Communications Trailer and operate as W1AW/4 for a few minutes.

Speaking of the W1AW Portable Operating Event, I would like to take a moment to encourage all the clubs and ARES groups in the Section to sign up to participate in this event. Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the Section Cabinet to request a time slot. Since 2026 is the "Year Of The Club" we are focusing on getting clubs to get together and operate W1AW, but we are signing up individuals to operate as well. This is a fantastic opportunity to promote W1AW, the ARRL, and the AMERICA250 event all at one time. If you've never operated under the W1AW call sign, I can assure you it's quite an experience! Every time I've said "CQ, W1AW" into the mic, I've had to answer a pile-up of folks wanting to log a QSO with the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station call sign.

In closing, I'd like to ask folks to keep Ingrid Klose KD4F in your prayers. She has recently entered hospice care after a period of declining health. Until recently, Ingrid had faithfully served as our Section Government Liaison.

73,

David KM4NYI



2026 ARRL America250 Worked All States

Calling all Hams! A Year-Long Worked-All-States Operating Event Celebrating the 250th Anniversary (Sesquicentennial) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is going on right now. TN is looking for activators for this fun event. 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'.

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!



2026 ARRL Field Day is June 27 - 28

Yes it's time to begin planning for Field Day 2026. It will be here before you know it. In about 2 months clubs and operators all over the US and Canada will be on the air.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

For more information on this year's event, go to the ARRL Field Day page at: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>. And don't forget to order your shirts and other swag items from the ARRL Shop before time runs out.

Parks On The Air – (POTA) – Going Viral?

P.O.T.A. Is growing leaps and bounds. Now, I know what your thinking, for some amateurs this is great news and there are some that really don't care for it because of the traffic on the air, and that's fine too. I think the bigger picture here is to take a look at what this is doing for Amateur Radio Sports and Amateur Radio as a whole. Here's a few numbers to consider about POTA:

Currently over 84,000 registered activators.
Over 10,000 parks are activated every month.
More than 85,000 active parks.
In 2023 there were 10.6 million QSOs
In 2024 that grew to 13 million.
In 2025 it has grown to 15.2 million QSOs!
With 406,000 log submissions.

As you can see, the numbers are staggering. This is a very successful radio sport and is still on an upward trend. The good news here is that people are “radio active” and this type of radio activity has not been seen in over a decade. So, if this inspires hams to get out and get active I say fantastic!

There are other things that can be activated as well. Just fill in the blank: “___ on the air”. And there are other radio sports that are fun also and offer rewards, too. SOTA – Summits on the Air has been a very successful sport but not as popular today as it was 10 years ago. And, just as SOTA tests different types of antennas and minimalist radios, POTA also demonstrates the ability of an operator in a possible emergency situation and doesn't require much hiking.

There are many radio sport systems popping up that offer hams new and exciting ways to have fun with their equipment and earn some certificates and recognition for the number of contacts made. Here are a few of the popular ones to consider:

POTA – Parks On The Air.

ARDF – Amateur Radio Direction Finding.

ARC – Amateur Radio Contesting.

SOTA – Summits On The Air.

RaDAR – Rapid Deployment of Amateur Radio.

High Speed Telegraphy – Competitions.

Bottom line here, POTA is a great “shot in the arm” to Amateur Radio. Combining all the sports out there to be enjoyed, we as hams should have no problem staying “radio active”! So, get out and have some fun. If you've been spending too much time in the shack and want to just get outside and get some fresh air, give one of these sports a try. It may surprise you!

73,

Dudley KM4IYQ

PARC – Protected Area Radio Community.

There is a fairly new worldwide radio sport gaining traction around the world called PARC. The rules are similar to POTA but similar. What makes this sport different is that “all” protected areas around the world are included, not just parks. If you live in a park, your home contacts also count. Your process is tracked so rewards are issued automatically from the point system.

The reward system has Hunters with 9 levels and Activators with 9 levels. In addition there are special rewards that can be earned including National and Mode rewards. As a side benefit, all your POTA logs are completely up-loadable and credited, too. So, PARC and POTA are completely compatible. And, as a side benefit, their spotting system shows spots from POTA, SOTA, PARC, and WWFF all on one service page.

For more information go to: <https://parc-community.com/>

WWFF – World Wide Flora and Fauna – Another Outdoor Radio Sport.

Are you looking for something different, then this radio sport may offer what your looking for. The WWFF is another radio sport to get operators outside and into nature activating over 40,000 protected flora and fauna areas around the world. This programs has an elaborate and colorful reward system and a monthly newsletter.

For more information how you can make nature your new radio shack, go to: <https://wwff.co/>

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF OUR TENNESSEE NETS

The Tennessee Phone and Traffic Nets are performing seamlessly. I monitor several nets across our great nation and there is not another Phone and Traffic net that is equal to ours. We try to offer something for every sector and every interest in the amateur radio community in our State. I talked with George and Wilodean, loved by all as well as Andy-W4SQE and Bill, WB4YPO all now Silent Keys about net business. We are doing something that has not been done in forty years if ever. I will explain later.

Here is what helps our nets be the best anywhere. We have great managers who are promoting our beloved hobby. In appointing net managers, I asked specifically each manager to appoint an assistant net manager.

Starting with CW there is Bruce-AC4G who is the manager of the CW net and Bob-K4TAX serves as his assistant. The CW net approaches and sometimes have two-hundred check-ins per month.

Our Winlink Net will celebrate a birthday in July- four years. Dale-W4WTN is our manager and he appointed Dewayne-KE4IDH as his assistant. This net participates in all simulated emergency training sessions. Our State and Federal authorities will only accept, in full emergency situations, traffic from Winlink. I was wondering few years back about Winlink and by chance Dale-W4WTN and I was discussing the ends and outs of it and I was about to dismiss the idea but Dale encouraged me to establish it and Dale would be the manager. He was right and I was short sighted. The net started in July 2022.

There are two section appointments that our Tennessee Section Manager David-KM4NYI made. He appointed me-WD4LAR as Tennessee Section Traffic Manager. I asked David to appoint Will-KN4ZPF as my assistant and he did. Will also serves as our RN5-DRN5 and brings probably 90% or more of the formal traffic to the net. RN5-DRN5 is not an appointed position it is one that is earned out of interest and dedication to the net.

I appointed Alex-KB4LX to serve as our evening Net Manger and Alex appointed Will-KN4ZPF as his assistant. Both do a commendable job in taking care of all the evening nets

on 3980 khz. There are normally over four thousand radio operators on the evening net each month. Alex keeps complete records that come at the end of the month to the Tennessee Section Traffic Manager.

I appointed Sky-KO4DKI as our Morning Net manager and Sky appointed Preston-KN4CCQ as his assistant. They also do a commendable job in taking care of the morning phone net and the record keeping that must go on. Both Alex and Sky work with all Net Control stations to make sure that every time slot is filled. Sky's records also come to the Section Traffic Manager for his report to the ARRL in Newington, Connecticut. The morning net also has about four thousand check-ins per month.

There is a fun, not formal, early phone net that meets Monday – Friday. I am the manager of that net and Jamie-N3FA is the other net control. It is not a roster net. People check in and give their weather and enjoy the comradery. We ask for bulletins or announcements and any traffic that needs passing.

All these nets combined totals go in my report to the ARRL Director of Field Services. I send the finished report by the fifth day of the month to the Director of Field Services in Newington and to our Section Manager-David-KM4NYI.

Two things we do that stand out above many other nets, once each quarter we have an Off Grid program. When I started this, it was surely off the seat of my pants for I did not know what I was doing for sure making many mistakes after each session we had a washout where suggestions were made about how the NCS could do better. Personally, I am still thankful for all the helps that were given me. After eight quarters I selected morning NCS for the Off Grid program until all morning NCS has called that net. When this is completed, we will switch to the evening NCS and do the Off Grid in the evenings.

Next, we are set apart from others because we have a Traffic Seminar on the air-3980 khz. A few years ago, I approached John-WW3B about being an instructor for the Seminar. We were at Stans that day and he said he would write the script and send it to me for approval and we would go from there. He had told me already that he was an instructor in the military and was acquainted with that kind of seminar. He did a masterful job with his script and we began having two seminars a year. The seminar is always on the four Tuesday nights of a month. We now have the seminar once each year. This past February we had thirty-three enrolled in the seminar. It was advertised on the ARRL website NTS-2 and all Section Traffic Managers across our nation knew of it. We announced an SDR so that anyone could monitor and dozens did. Thanks for John-WW3B and your willingness we have more traffic handlers in Tennessee than any state around us.

This describes our daily, weekly, and monthly activity. Record keeping is a must and itself promotes our hobby. As Tennessee Section Traffic Manager, I am responsible for directing (overseeing) all the nets listed above and to report monthly to the Field Services Director at ARRL headquarters. It is a high honor to serve all of you!

73/WD4LAR/Harrell
Tennessee Section Traffic Manager

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.

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

None this month.

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>

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:

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

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

07/11/2026 – Greater Nashville & Middle Tennessee HamQuest – Lebanon, TN.

<http://midtnhamquest.com/>

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>

10/17/2026 – Short Mountain Repeater Club Hamfest – Wartrace, TN.

<https://www.smrclub.com/>

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

Special Events Stations Resource

If you like to chase Special Event Stations there is an easy resource available for you and easy to use. Go to the ARRL Special Events page and search for planned upcoming special events. Go to: <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations> and set your search criteria and dates and a list of all the special events for that period will be generated.

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.info>

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/>