



ARRL East TN. Affiliated Club July 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. 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 **Amateur Radio News**

ARRL Audio News

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

ARRL Digital Magazine Issues This Month

QST Link: [July 2026 Issue](#)

On The Air Link: [July / August 2026 Issue](#)

QEX Link: [July / August 2026 Issue](#)

National Contest Journal Link: [June / July 2026 Issue](#)

ARRL TN Section Newsletter

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

TN ARRL Website Review

Do you ever go over to the TN ARRL website? Did you know TN has an ARRL website? Well, it does and it's a good resource for information including a listing of all the staff volunteers, ARES contact information and maps, TN ARRL sponsored nets, and much more. So, take a look. You might find something new you didn't know about.

Call for Nominations for ARRL Director and Vice Director

Attention: Full ARRL members in the ATLANTIC, DAKOTA, **DELTA**, GREAT LAKES, and MIDWEST Divisions. You have the opportunity to choose a Director and Vice Director to represent you for 3-year terms beginning January 1, 2027. The incumbent Directors and Vice Directors, respectively, in the five divisions in which elections will be held this year are: Atlantic: Marty Newingham, AG3I, and Ray Sokola, K9RS; Dakota: Bill Lippert, AC0W, and Christian Stallkamp, KI0D; **Delta: David Norris, K5UZ**, and John Mark Robertson, K5JMR; Great Lakes: Scott Yonally, N8SY, and Roy Hook, W8REH; and Midwest: Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ, and David Propper, K2DP.

Shortwave Listening is Not Dead

Many people still enjoy the magic of radio through shortwave listening. Granted the number of stations are becoming less and less but there is help in locating them. Through the added magic of A.I., there is a great AI powered search engine to locate stations anywhere around the world in any language. Here is a link to that search engine: [Shorwave HQ](#)

Rooftop 2M Antenna Install Couldn't Be Easier

Want to know how to install an 2M antenna on your roof in seconds? Here it is: [2M Rooftop Antenna](#)

CQ Magazine Archives Are Available

The magazine stopped production back in 2023 but there is a source for archived copies on the internet. If you are looking for past issues of CQ magazine, go to: [CQ Archives](#)

Amateur Radio News Source

For the latest from Amateur Radio Newsline go to: <https://www.arnewsline.org/>

HOA Antenna Solutions – “Live Free Or Die”!

Yeah, HOAs are a real problem for several hams these days. The restrictions are unreasonable and the governing bodies are not educated in electronics and radio science to even properly define what a “reasonable antenna” should be. So, hams have taken it upon themselves to come up with innovative ways to overcome these barriers.

For example, I know of a ham that has nine antennas on his property and none are visible from his neighbors and especially the nosy HOA staff. Is he in violation of the bylaws? Technically, yes. Does anyone know he is in violation? No, because neither his HOA nor neighbors are aware of them. He used every stealth technique known to man to hid his incursion. This includes camo paint, positioning, sizing, etc., resulting in the antennas hiding in plane site. Besides in America, when we are told we can't do something, well that's just perceived as a challenge! LOL! Personally, I won't and never will live in an HOA. But, that's another article.

Ever once in a while I run across a story that gets my attention and this is one of them. Meet Fred Johnson K6FRD. Fred is an amateur radio operator in Riverside, California. Like many hams, he lives in an HOA-controlled neighborhood. For Johnson, finding practical, low-visibility, antenna solutions has become part of the fun over the years. *“For years I struggled to enjoy HF because, like many amateurs in an HOA, towers and conventional outdoor antennas simply aren't an option,”* said Johnson. *“I tried several radios over the years, but without an effective antenna I rarely heard much activity and had very limited success making contacts. A few weeks ago, I decided to stop chasing radios and instead focus on building the best stealth antenna I could.”*

So, innovation took over. *“The result is a simple 145-foot horizontal loop made from 14 AWG THHN wire, mounted on stainless cup hooks around the top of my backyard fences about six feet above the ground. The wire is insulated from the hooks with short pieces of clear vinyl tubing and is fed with a 4:1 current balun and approximately 25 feet of RG-8X coax. I also added ferrite chokes at both the antenna and radio ends of the feed line to help minimize common-mode current and noise.”* said Fred.

ARRL Field Day 2026 gave Johnson a chance to operate entirely on battery power using his IC-7300 and his new antenna, making contacts on 10, 15, and 20 meters. Since installing the loop, he has worked 39 states, 24 countries, and stations throughout Japan, Hawaii, Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, South America, and across North America—all from his HOA backyard! Great Job, Fred! Until we can get some legislation passed to open these HOA barriers, let's continue to be innovative and and stealthy in our HOA neighborhoods.

But wait a minute, Dudley! This is America, home of the free and the brave! Our rights to pursue happiness shall not be infringed! *(I hear fireworks going off in the distance while the National Anthem is playing in the background)* I agree! But for now, let's keep it stealthy for the time being. Fred has created a Google photo album with all of the photos of his antenna design: [Photos of Antenna](#)

**73,
Dudley KM4IYQ**

What is PRB-1 and Why It's Important

FCC PRB-1 (101 FCC 2d 952, 1985) is a Memorandum Opinion and Order issued by the Federal Communications Commission that sets out the limited federal preemption of state and local regulations affecting amateur radio antennas.

What PRB-1 Does:

PRB-1 was issued in September 1985 to address conflicts between local zoning or building codes and the needs of amateur radio operators. It holds that:

- Local governments must reasonably accommodate amateur radio operations when regulating antenna placement, height, screening, or other features.
- Federal law takes precedence over local rules that are not reasonably necessary to achieve legitimate local purposes (e.g., health, safety, aesthetics)
- Local ordinances involving antenna height, placement, or screening must be the minimum practicable regulation needed to achieve their legitimate purpose.

Key Legal Principles

- Reasonable accommodation: Local rules cannot create unusual hurdles for amateur radio that are not present for similar non-amateur uses.
- Minimum practicable regulation: If a local rule is not the least restrictive way to achieve its purpose, it may be invalidated under PRB-1.
- Federal preemption: State/local laws that conflict with PRB-1 are preempted, meaning they cannot be enforced against amateur radio operators.

Codification

The core of PRB-1 is codified in 47 CFR § 97.15(b), which states that local regulations on antenna placement, height, or screening must be reasonably accommodating of amateur radio and represent the minimum practicable regulation for the local authority's legitimate purpose.

Practical Impact

- For amateur radio operators: You can challenge local antenna height or placement rules if they are not reasonably necessary or are overly restrictive compared to similar uses.
- For local governments: Ordinances must be carefully drafted to avoid violating PRB-1; otherwise, they may be struck down in court.
- For states: Some states (e.g., Washington) have enacted statutes explicitly requiring local ordinances to conform to PRB-1.

Related Clarifications

The FCC later clarified PRB-1 in 1999, reaffirming its principles and noting that it does not cover covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&R's) In short: PRB-1 ensures that amateur radio operators are not unduly burdened by local antenna rules, while still allowing local authorities to address legitimate concerns — but only if those rules are reasonable, minimal, and necessary.

Updated Tennessee 2024 Code: Section 6-54-130 Amateur Radio Service:

Tennessee Code § 6-54-130 (2024) governs the limits on municipal and county ordinances related to amateur radio facilities.

Key Provisions

(a) Federal Preemption

A municipality (including cities and lesser incorporated areas) or a county may not enact or enforce an ordinance that does not comply with:

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruling in In the Matter of Federal Preemption of State and Local Regulations Pertaining to Amateur Radio Facilities, 101 F.C.C. 2nd 952 (1985), or
- A regulation related to amateur radio service adopted under 47 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter D, Part 97.

This means that any local rules about amateur radio must align with federal law and FCC policy.

(b) Placement, Screening, or Height of Amateur Antennas

If a municipality adopts an ordinance involving the placement, screening, or height of an amateur antenna based on health, safety, or aesthetic conditions, the ordinance must:

- 1.Reasonably accommodate amateur radio communications, and
- 2.Represent the minimal practicable regulation to achieve the municipality's or county's purpose.

Purpose and Context

This section ensures that local governments do not create rules that interfere with the federally regulated amateur radio service. It protects the rights of amateur radio operators while allowing municipalities to address legitimate concerns about antenna placement, provided those rules are reasonable and necessary.

Related Federal Law

•47 CFR Part 97 sets the rules for amateur radio operations in the U.S., including technical standards, licensing, and operational requirements.

In summary: Tennessee law bars local governments from imposing amateur radio rules that conflict with federal preemption, and if they regulate antenna placement, those rules must be reasonable and minimal in scope. Basically Federal law “trumps” local and state law. So, share these laws with your HOA should the need arise.



Registration Is Open for the 2026 ARRL National Convention in Huntsville, Alabama!

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® and the Huntsville Hamfest will host the 2026 ARRL National Convention and Huntsville Hamfest, August 21 - 23, in Huntsville, Alabama.

The convention will kick off on Friday, August 21, with a series of day-long ARRL Training Tracks and a National Convention Luncheon at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville. Then join ARRL on Friday night for a very special National Convention Dinner under a full-size Saturn V rocket at the nearby U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Access to the museum is included along with dinner and special speakers. Proceeds benefit the ARRL Education & Technology Program, and additional sponsorships are available.

Registration is now open for Friday's National Convention program. Registrants can select a Training Track (includes the luncheon) for \$90. The National Convention Dinner at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center is \$100, and includes dinner, museum, and a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the Education & Technology Program. The National Convention Training Tracks are workshops providing an in-depth learning experience in one of the three Track topics. Attendees will select a Training Track when completing their online National Convention registration.

Training Track #1: Mini Contest University. This marks the first time Mini Contest University (CTU) is coming to Huntsville. Registrants will learn from some veteran amateur radio contesters. This Mini CTU will appeal to new and veteran contesters alike who are looking to hone their skills. Presenters cover general contest operations, contesting skills, and many resources and tools to get more out of contesting. The Mini CTU Track Leader is Tim Duffy, K3LR. Presenters TBD. This training is sponsored by DX Engineering.

Training Track #2: Emergency Communications Academy. Emergency Communications presenters will cover topics including Future Proofing ARES® — the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service®, PACE planning, relationship building, digital communications, emerging technologies, and other topics designed to enhance your emergency communications knowledge and preparedness. Participants will learn the skills and roles needed to become more effective volunteers.

Training Track #3: Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Workshop. This workshop, led by Walt Hudson, K4OGO, with additional presenters, will feature practical information for portable antenna-building, deployment, and operating.

The rest of the celebration continues at the Huntsville Hamfest on Saturday and Sunday, August 22 – 23, at the Von Braun Center (South Hall), which is connected by sky bridge to the Embassy Suites. Known as “The World’s Friendliest Hamfest,” this air-conditioned all-indoor event attracts a large list of commercial exhibitors, notable forum presenters, flea market, youth activities, and W1AW America250 Special Event Station. Tickets for the Huntsville Hamfest are sold separately and are available now.

For further details, visit the 2026 ARRL National Convention web page at [ARRL Expo Webpage](#) and the Huntsville Hamfest website at <https://hamfest.org/>

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.

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.

TN Hamfests/Conventions

Here are the events planned for 2026 so far including the ARRL National Convention:

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/>

08/21/2026 – ARRL National Convention – Huntsville, AL. & Huntsville Hamfest.

<https://www.arrl.org/arrl-expo> <https://hamfest.org/>

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>

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>

11-12th – IARU HF World Championship - <https://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

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 June go to: <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2026/June%202026%20Corral.pdf>

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.etcheda.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/>