



ARRL East Tennessee Affiliated Club September 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: [September 2026 News](#)

ARRL Digital Magazine Issues This Month

QST Link: [September 2026 Issue](#)

On The Air Link: [September/October 2026 Issue](#)

QEX Link: [September/October 2026 Issue](#)

National Contest Journal Link: [August / September 2026 Issue](#)

ARRL TN Section Newsletter

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

Amateur Radio News Source

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

A Special Message from ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA:

The Summer (August) ARRL National Instructor Newsletter was sent out last week by email to all ARRL Registered Instructors. It contains information about the ARRL Learning Center's library of training videos, updated Technician Class PowerPoint slides, lesson plans for basic electronics, discounts for instructors who purchase student study books from ARRL, student graduation certificates, and even more free resources to support instructors teaching amateur radio classes.

Important: If you are an active volunteer instructor who has never signed up as an ARRL Registered Instructor, please make yourself official at [ARRL Licensed Instructor Registration](#). If you believe you are already registered but did not receive the most recent newsletter, please register again using the same link so we can make sure you receive future communications.

We don't want you to miss these messages and updates intended to support volunteer classroom instructors. Want a sample of some of the free resources available to support ARRL Registered Instructors? Visit [ARRL Gordon West page](#).

I encourage all volunteer instructors to email me with questions you may have as we build participation and engagement in the ARRL National Instructor Program.
Email instructors@arrl.org with your ideas!

It's Time For The 2026 Tennessee QSO Party!

It's time to double-check your antennas, fine-tune your logging setups, and get ready for one of the most exciting operating events on our annual calendar: the 2026 Tennessee QSO Party (TNQP)! Hosted by the Tennessee Contest Group, this year's event takes place on **Sunday, September 6, 2026, running from 1:00 PM to 11:00 PM EDT (1700Z to 0300Z).**

Whether you operate from a permanent home shack, set up a portable field station, or hit the highway as a mobile rover, **TNQP offers ten hours of fast-paced operating** and a fantastic chance to represent the Volunteer State on the airwaves.

Event At-A-Glance

Date & Time: Sunday, September 6, 2026 | 1700Z – 0300Z (1:00 PM – 11:00 PM EDT)

- * Bands: All HF bands (excluding WARC bands: 30m, 17m, 12m)
- * Modes: CW, Phone (SSB), and Digital (any digital mode that supports the exchange format; excludes FT-4/8)

Exchange:

Tennessee Stations: Signal Report (RS/T) + 3-Letter County Abbreviation.

Out-of-State / DX Stations: Signal Report (RS/T) + State, Canadian Province, or DXCC Country

Why You Should Get On the Air

- 1.) Be the Hunted: For thousands of operators across North America and around the globe, Tennessee stations are in high demand. When you call CQ TNQP, expect steady pileups as hunters try to work all 95 Tennessee counties.
- 2.) Team Up for Multi-Op: Tennessee participants can group together to enter as a Multi-Operator station. Teaming up with local club members or fellow contesters is a fantastic way to keep your station operating full-time for all ten hours without operator fatigue, while making the event a social, high-scoring effort.
- 3.) Double Dip with POTA: Planning to operate portable? The party is a prime opportunity to activate a Parks on the Air (POTA) unit in TN while giving out rare county multipliers. You can work callers hunting the state contest and hunters chasing your park designation all in one outing!
- 4.) Flexible Operations: You don't need a massive competitive contesting setup to make an impact. Single-operator, multi-operator, low-power, QRP, and mobile categories mean there's an operating style for everyone.

Tips for Success

- 1.) Check Your Logging Software: Ensure your logger software is updated with the latest master country files (wl_cty.dat) and the correct TNQP module.

2.) Plan Your Strategy: If you plan to work multiple bands or digital modes alongside CW and SSB, coordinate your CAT control and interface settings ahead of time to minimize downtime on contest day.

3.) Submit Your Logs: Don't let your contacts go uncounted! Electronic log submissions in Cabrillo format are due shortly after the event via the official TNQP log submission portal.

Mark your calendar, test your station gear this week, and let's put Tennessee on the map. See you on the air! For full rules, county abbreviation lists, and log upload details, visit the official website at <https://tnqp.org>

Volunteer State Worked All Counties Award **(VSWAC)**

The purpose of this award is to encourage amateur radio operators to get on the air and make contacts with other Tennessee stations. This is not a contest - but rather an “operating event” that will offer recognition of amateur radio operators who contact all Tennessee counties.

This event period is from August 1, 2026, until August 1, 2027.

The object of this event is to make contact in all counties in the state of Tennessee from within the county you live in. If you live outside of the state of Tennessee, you must operate within your home county. Whenever possible, make the contact outside of your home station. Only use phone or CW modes; digital or automatic contacts will be rejected. This is in place simply to encourage operators to get to know other amateurs by have a meaningful QSO.

To encourage the use of all normally accessible bands by offering more points for contacts in certain bands. The point system is designed to encourage Technicians class licensees and newly licensed amateurs to explore all frequency bands and modes available for their use. This event promotes learning about the state of Tennessee by getting to know the counties that lie within its borders. All contacts must be logged (electronically or on paper) and include the station worked, name of operator, county name, date, time, frequency, and mode. Paper QSL cards are acceptable.

Scoring Philosophy - Unlike traditional contests where every county is worth the same amount, the VSWAC recognizes that some Tennessee counties are significantly harder to work because of geography, population density, amateur radio activity, and propagation challenges. Each county is assigned a County Difficulty Value (CDV). The final score for a contact is determined by multiplying the county value by the band/mode multiplier.

For the complete explanation and details for the event go to: [TN Volunteer State WAC AWARD](#).



Huntsville Hamfest / ARRL Convention In Review

Radio, Learning, and Community at the 2026 ARRL National Convention and Huntsville Hamfest

Reported by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, ARRL Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation

Alabama's Huntsville Hamfest proudly promotes itself as "The World's Friendliest Hamfest!" It's been only a few days since the convention ended, and that sentiment is still resonating among those of us who attended the 2026 ARRL National Convention hosted by the Huntsville Hamfest, August 21 – 23.

You could feel the welcome almost immediately.

ARRL's National Convention program on Friday drew attendees from 37 states. The day started early with three full-day workshops, each attracting a different slice of the amateur radio community. In Mini Contest University, organized by Tim Duffy, K3LR, and sponsored by DX Engineering, first-time and veteran contesters settled in together to learn, compare notes, and sharpen their skills. In the room next door, the Emergency Communications Academy brought together amateurs who volunteer when their communities need communications support, sharing experiences and practical lessons from the field.

Then there was the Portable Antenna Workshop, where ARRL author “Salty Walt” Hudson, K4OGO, teamed up with Michael Martens, KB9VBR, of YouTube’s KB9VBR Antennas, and ARRL Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, W1DRF. It was the kind of session that captures what amateur radio does so well: take a popular activity, put a group of curious people in a room, and start figuring it out together.

And then there was the setting itself.

Huntsville is a natural place for a gathering centered on radio and technology. The connection was especially apparent at dinner Friday evening, when National Convention attendees gathered for a fundraiser at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center to support the ARRL Education and Technology Program. Surrounded by reminders of America’s history of exploration and technological achievement, amateur radio’s role in advancing technology and inspiring young people felt right at home. ARRL Director of Education and Learning Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, delivered an inspiring message, sharing his lifelong journey as a radio amateur while highlighting ARRL’s commitment to developing educators who can ultimately reach thousands of young people. Director of Development Kevin Beal, K8EAL, encouraged additional donations, noting that the cost to sponsor and cover all expenses for an educator attending the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is \$4,000.

The evening also included special recognition of the Huntsville Hamfest Association for hosting the National Convention, with ARRL presenting a plaque to Chairman Mark Brown, N4BCD.

That spirit carried onto the hamfest floor.

Crowds flooded in when the doors opened on Saturday morning to the familiar sounds of a major hamfest – conversations, laughter, the occasional “Hey, good to see you!” and plenty of discussion about radios, antennas, operating, technology, and everything in between. That energy was also evident throughout the sprawling ARRL EXPO. Attendees had the opportunity to talk with ARRL staff and volunteers, ask questions, learn more about programs and services, and put faces to the people behind the organization. For ARRL, being present at major conventions such as Huntsville is an important part of being a member association. We can communicate through QST, the ARRL Letter, email and social media, but there is something different about sitting across the table from a member and having a conversation. That was especially apparent in the area of the EXPO where ARRL Officers spent time meeting with attendees. President Rick Roderick, K5UR; CEO David Minster, NA2AA; First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and Second Vice President Rick Niswander, K7GM, spoke with hundreds of attendees who stopped by to ask questions, share ideas, or simply say hello.

The ARRL Lab tested over 100 handheld radios for spurious emissions during the weekend while also promoting the ARRL Technical Information Service. *“The Lab booth had lots of traffic, and as usual, it was super fun,”* said Senior Laboratory Engineer Rick Ciervo, W1CIE. *“It was great to meet so many members who recognize and appreciate the work ARRL does for amateur radio.”*

At Saturday afternoon's ARRL Membership Forum, Emergency Communications and Field Services Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, presented Year of the Club newsletter and website contest awards to representatives of ARRL Affiliated Clubs.

Three days went by quickly. There was plenty to see, learn, buy, discuss, and experience. But what stood out most was the people. If "The World's Friendliest Hamfest!" sounds like a bold claim, those of us who spent the weekend in Huntsville might suggest that they have a pretty good case. You can see even more photos from the 2026 ARRL National Convention on [ARRL Facebook](#). Check out the National Convention recap on the ARRL YouTube channel at the link [ARRL Huntsville Review](#).

Looking ahead: There are tentative plans to host the next ARRL National Convention at [Pacificon](#) in San Ramon, California, in October 2028.

Thanks Bob, for a great recap of this years record setting Huntsville Hamfest.

73,

Dudley Pitts

ARRL E. TN ACC

Candidates Named for ARRL Director and Vice Director Elections Including Our Delta Division

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has announced that the candidates for the 2026 ARRL Division elections are now official. ARRL members will choose between two candidates for Director in the Delta, Great Lakes, and Midwest Divisions, and two candidates for Vice Director in the Midwest Division. The Director positions in the Atlantic and Dakota Divisions are unopposed, as are the Vice Director positions in the Atlantic, Dakota, and Delta Divisions. The Great Lakes Division had no candidates for Vice Director.

Declared Elected without Opposition:

- **Atlantic Division:** Marty Newingham, AG3I, Director; and Ray Sokola, K9RS, Vice Director. Newingham has held the Director position since January 2026, and Sokola has held the Vice Director position since July 2026.
- **Dakota Division:** Bill Lippert, AC0W, Director; and Christian Stallkamp, KI0D, Vice Director. Lippert has held the Director position since January 2021, and Stallkamp has held the Vice Director position since March 2026.
- **Delta Division:** Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, Vice Director. The current Vice Director, John Mark Robertson, K5JMR, who was appointed in December 2025, chose not to seek election.

Contested Seats For Elections:

- **Delta Division:** Incumbent David Norris, K5UZ, and David Thomas, KM4NYI, will run for Director.

- **Great Lakes Division:** Incumbent Scott Yonally, N8SY, and Michael Kalter, W8CI, will run for Director. There were no candidates for the Vice Director position.
- **Midwest Division:** Incumbent Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ, and Drew Vonada-Smith, K3PA, will run for Director, while Ron Ochu, KO0Z, and Todd LeMense, KK0DX, will run for Vice Director. The current Vice Director, Dave Proper, K2DP, who has served since 2021, chose not to seek re-election.

Balloting for contested seats will take place this fall. Votes will be counted, and successful candidates will be announced in November. Candidates declared elected will assume their roles for terms beginning January 1, 2027.

ARRL is governed by its Board of Directors. Elections are held for five of the 15 ARRL Divisions each year, for terms of three years.

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 remaining events planned for 2026. Let's get out there and make an end of season push to make them all!

09/12/2026 – East Tennessee Hamfest. - Dandridge, TN.

<https://lakewayarc.org/hamfest/>

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

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

09/26/2026 – Middle Tennessee Co-op Event – Greenbrier, TN.

<https://hamcoop.com/>

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>

09/05th–06th: EME 2.3 GHz and Up - <https://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

09/12th-14th: September VHF Contest - <https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

09/19th-21st: 10Ghz and Up – Round 2 - <https://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

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/August%202026%20Corral.pdf>

ARRL Handy 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.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.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/>