



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

ARRL Digital Magazine Issues This Month

QST Link: [October 2026 Issue](#)

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

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

National Contest Journal Link: [October / November 2026 Issue](#)

ARRL TN Section Newsletter

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

Amateur Radio News Source

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

Pay Your FCC License Renewals And Verify Payment Recieved

The FCC's two-year grace period is a safety net if we forget to put a reminder in our calendar app. Always make sure your payment went through. Did you know that 1 in 16 operators renewing their license fail to make payment or the payment fails? Always confirm your payment went through. Otherwise, you may find yourself without a license once the grace period has expired.

W2PH – Internet Streaming Radio With Classic Rock

This is a cool station if you like the latest in amateur radio news and good music. This is a great station to listen to while in the shack or workshop and it's amateur radio based! Go to: <https://w2phradio.com/> and give them a try.

Reminder of Division Elections coming up

Voting in the election for Delta Division Director opens up on October 26. All members as of September 10 will receive a post card in the mail along with an e-mail detailing the procedure to vote online. The deadline to cast your online vote is November 20. The candidates are David Thomas KM4NYI of Tennessee and David Norris K5UZ of Arkansas. In the election for Vice-Director, Stephen Goodgame K5ATA of Mississippi was the sole nominee, so he will take office in January.

Video/Podcast with ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA

ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, was a guest on episode 103 of The DX Mentor, which aired September 19, 2026. Hosted by Bill Salyers, AJ8B, with Joe Pater, W8GEX, the discussion covered highlights from the ARRL Board of Directors' annual Second Meeting, held July 17; the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU); the August ARRL National Convention hosted by the Huntsville Hamfest, and recent support from major donors. Minster also answered questions submitted by listeners and viewers. The DX Mentor podcast is available on many major platforms, and the video interview is available on YouTube at [DX Mentor Podcast](#)

Four Prominent Keys Became Silent In September

We are saddened to report this on the passing of four well-known amateurs, including two members of the extended "ARRL family."

Longtime ARRL Rhode Island Section Manager Robert George "Bob" Beaudet, W1YRC, became a Silent Key on September 10, 2026, at age 88. An ARRL Life Member, Gold-Level Diamond Club member, and Maxim Society member in the President Class, Beaudet served as Rhode Island Section Manager from 2002 to 2023. In 2020, the ARRL Board of Directors recognized his contributions to the Field Organization with the Knight Distinguished Service Award. An ARRL Volunteer Examiner, Bob took part in over 340 license exam sessions, and was a long-serving member of the DX Advisory Committee. Just a week before his passing, the nursing home where he'd lived since 2025 reported on Facebook about a carefully-organized "jailbreak" in late July, in which Bob was able to briefly return home and once again take to the airwaves as W1YRC, joining a Wednesday night net with more than 40 other Rhode Island hams. Current Rhode Island Section Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, noted in an email that *"amateur radio in Rhode Island owes a lot to Bob."* [Read the full obituary.](#)

Perry T. Green, WY1O, of Winsted, Connecticut, is also now a Silent Key. A U.S. Army Veteran, he passed away on September 14, 2026, at age 79. Perry was on the ARRL Headquarters staff from 2002 to 2017. He was Assistant Manager of the ARRL VEC Department and had served as a member of the Question Pool Committee for the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, recalled that "Perry had a special gift for connecting with people. He built lasting personal relationships with many of our Volunteer Examiners and customers and ... made people feel welcome and appreciated." Somma added that Green's "dedication, kindness, and ability to connect with others made him a valued colleague and important part of the ARRL VEC team." [Read his obituary here.](#)

Charles "Uncle Chuck" Lee Wyrick, N1UC, of Stuarts Draft, Virginia, became a Silent Key on September 1, 2026, at age 82. An ARRL member, he was a longtime employee of Ham Radio Outlet (HRO), joining the staff there in 1989. He was the company's National Operations Manager from 2007 until his retirement in 2017. According to the HRO website,

Wyrick was responsible for bringing the company “into the 21st century” by implementing a networked point-of-sale application which connected all HRO stores and allowed sharing of sales and inventory control data among all locations. Chuck was also an active satellite operator and was a control operator of the AO-27 satellite. [Read the full obituary.](#)

Doug Hendricks, KI6DS, passed away on September 18, 2026. A co-founder of the NorCal QRP Club and founder/owner of Hendricks QRP Kits, he helped start and fuel the popularity of kit-building among QRP (low power) enthusiasts. Hendricks was also a long-time master of ceremonies for the OzarkCon QRP conference and a regular presenter at Four Days in May, the QRP gathering that precedes the Dayton Hamvention® each year. Off the ham bands, Doug taught science and math, and coached basketball, at Dos Palos High School in California, where he was responsible for more than 300 victories and the school’s first-ever league championship. His obituary was not available for this article.

ARRL sends condolences to the families and friends of these four ham radio leaders.

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

Second July ARRL Board Meeting Results – Some Surprises!

As many of you know, any member of the ARRL can sign-up for a copy of the Board minutes to be emailed to you. I regularly read these minutes because I want to know of any up coming changes that effect our clubs and members specifically or are issues that I think bear highlighting. This latest Board meeting report had a couple of surprises I did not expect to see. At the bottom of this article I will provide you a link to the minutes so you can read them for yourselves.

Item# 23 – (Page 12): The Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee moved in celebration of the clubs, to address the operational challenges faced by clubs and members, and to encourage greater participation in the ARRL Club Commission Program, the following resolution is set forth:

- The Board of Directors formally requests that the CEO direct staff to develop an electronic membership form. This form must enable both new and returning members to select their preferred club from a list of participating clubs, ensuring that the selected club receives the appropriate Club Commission for membership.
- The new membership form will provide convenient payment options, including credit and debit card payments and other recognized electronic banking methods. This enhancement will streamline the process for members, making it easier and more accessible to pay dues.
- This resolution also incorporates an increase in the renewal commission, raising the amount from \$5 to \$10. This adjustment acknowledges the efforts of clubs in recruitment and retention and provides a more substantial financial incentive for clubs to participate in the program.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously!

“I think this was a good move by the Board to increase the commission to reward our clubs and the officers that help to preserve amateur radio. Also, with the move to go “paperless” and develop and provide an electronic means to renew memberships and process renewals, will simply make things easier for our clubs and members. I look forward the coming changes ahead.”

Item#28 – (Page 20): Director Yonally moved, seconded by First Vice President McIntyre, that the ARRL Board of Directors hereby amends the ARRL Articles of Association – **Article 12 and ARRL By-Law 18 to establish term limits for elected Directors and Vice Directors.**

- 1) **Directors** No individual shall serve more than three (3) consecutive elected terms as a Director. Upon completion of three consecutive terms, the individual shall be ineligible to serve again as Director or run again as Vice Director until the expiration of at least one full elected three (3) year term.
- 2) **Vice Directors** No individual shall serve more than three (3) consecutive elected terms as a Vice Director. Upon completion of three consecutive terms, the individual shall be ineligible to serve again as Vice Director until the expiration of at least one full elected

term. A Vice Director can, however, serve as Director directly after three consecutive terms as Vice Director. The time served as Vice Director does not apply to the three (3) consecutive elected terms, for this case, and shall be subject to the term limits for Directors starting from the first term.

A roll call vote was taken, requiring three-fourths vote:

Acting Director Milluzzi: Aye

Director Norton: Nay

Director Stratton: Nay

Director Newingham: Aye

Director Long: Aye

Director Lippert: Aye

Director Norris: Nay

Director Yonally: Aye

Director Wilson: Aye

Director Zygielbaum: Aye

Director Frenaye: Nay

Director Tharp: Nay

Director Litz: Nay

Director Boehner: Aye

Director Ryan: Aye

The motion FAILED - 9 Aye and 6 Nay.

"This one was (in my opinion as a regular ARRL member and not as your Affiliated Club Coordinator) a disappointment." How else will we ever have opportunity to infuse new blood and fresh new ideas into the organization?

To read the entire minutes for yourself, go to: [Second July Board Meeting Minutes](#)

73,

Dudley Pitts - KM4IYQ

Artificial Intelligence In Ham Radios? What?

We all hear about more and more use of AI being used in various ways to automate and refine things, and some reports of "going rouge" and doing unexpected things! Surely we don't have any AI coming to our hobby. Well, not so fast! AI may be coming to a radio on your desk sooner than you think. Now, I'm not saying it will order you a pizza while working a late night contest session..... hmmm.... wait, it might just do that too! I may need to rethink that.

Anyway, did you know that AI is impacting amateur radio right now in the areas of signal processing and station automation. There are operators right now using AI tools and software to improve radio signals, and logging. There are operators using self-learning algorithms, and SDRs to improve radio signal quality and hopefully make more contacts. AI is also being used to predict signal propagation and mode usage such as NeuralProphet forecasting modes for FT8. Some operators are using ChatGPT for creating applications for digital voice bots to

improve digital modes such as D-Star and DMR. AI is also being used to create more efficient circuit designs. Manufacturers are using AI to optimize radio design and signal processing.

Let's take a look at Icom for a minute. Is Icom adding AI to Ham Radios? Yes. Icom has confirmed AI is part of its future strategy, and while it's not yet a headline feature in current models, AI-enabled functions are expected in upcoming radios and accessories. This is what Icom is saying about their use of AI:

[Icom's Medium Term Business Plan 2026](#) explicitly lists "AI Engine Core" as a development area, including AI functions processable by general-purpose CPUs and video/audio/signal processing. This points to potential AI integration in amateur radio products, such as advanced signal analysis, noise reduction, or automated logging.

Current and Upcoming Products

- Hamvention 2026 — While the announced features focus on REAL APRS and Bluetooth TNC, the device is part of Icom's "new platforms and technologies" push, which includes AI-related capabilities.
- IC-7110 (preview) — Early show samples at Hamfest 2026 suggest Icom is exploring new UI and processing features, which could incorporate AI-assisted functions.
- X-026 concept — A vehicle-mounted radio prototype shown at Ham Radio 2026, though no specs yet, is seen by some as a possible successor to the IC-7100 with modern touch-screen and processing upgrades.
-

How AI Could Appear in Ham Radios

Industry sources note AI in ham radio is already being used for weak-signal decoding, propagation prediction, noise removal, and automated logging. Icom's AI plan aligns with these use cases, suggesting future radios may offer:

- Automatic signal classification and decoding
- Adaptive noise suppression
- Predictive band-opening alerts
- Automated logging and reporting

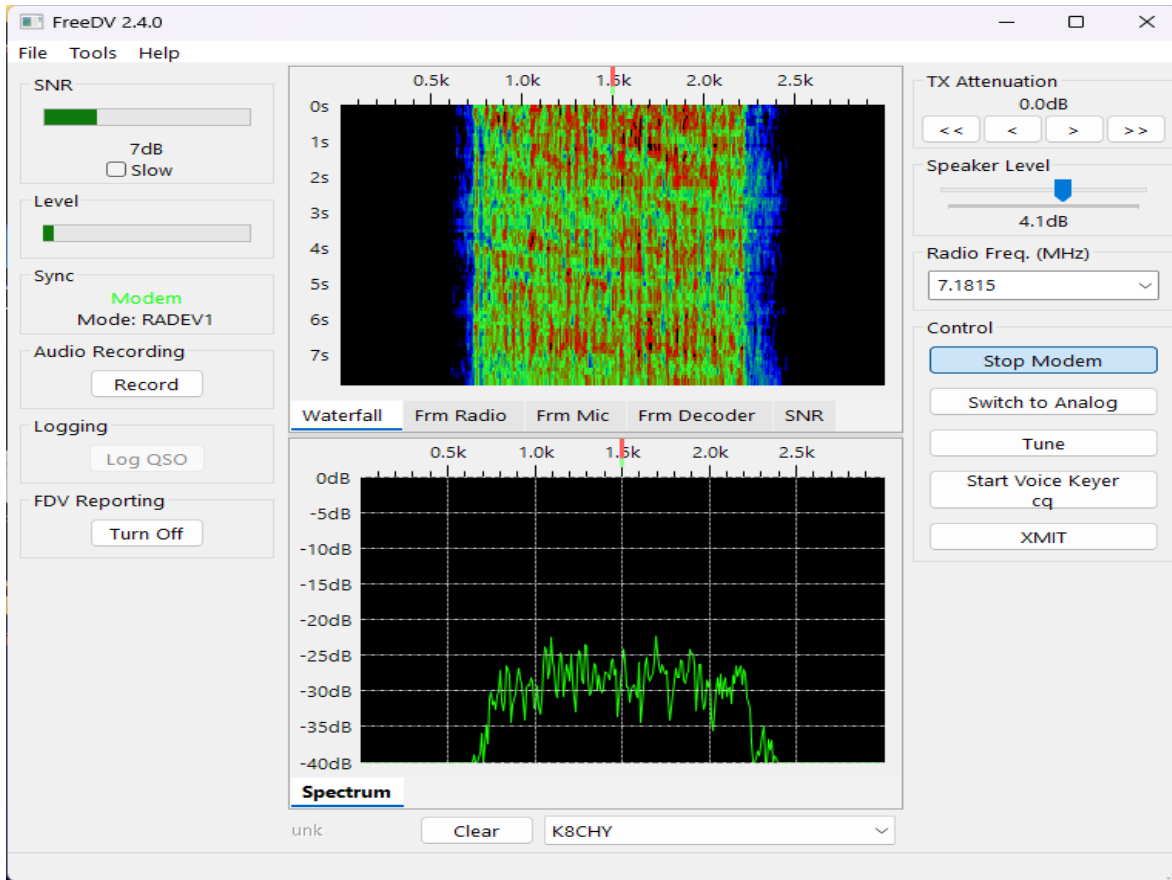
So, what is the summary of all this talk? Well, Icom is working on AI integration for ham radios, but as of now, no model ships with AI as a marketed feature. The AI "engine core" is part of their 2026 strategy, and it's likely to appear in upcoming products like the IC-7110 or other new products. For now, AI-powered tools are mostly external software, but expect Icom to embed them directly into hardware in the next few years.

Keep in mind this is just one of the manufacturers. You can be assured the "race" is on to bring these capabilities to market as quickly as possible. Keep talking to those in the know and follow the announcements for future "firmware upgrades" and hardware. So, is AI in ham radios? Yes! But, it's how we use it that determines our future in this wonderful hobby.

73,

Dudley Pitts KM4IYQ
ARRL E.TN. ACC

Will RADE Be the Next SSB?



It's been a half century since single sideband (SSB) supplanted amplitude modulation (AM) as the most popular voice mode on HF, due largely to its spectrum efficiency, occupying roughly half the bandwidth of an AM signal. Now, there's a new digital voice mode from FreeDV called Radio Auto-encoder, or RADE, that occupies half the bandwidth of an SSB signal and reportedly provides more natural-sounding speech. According to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), which funded research that advanced RADE's development, "FreeDV RADE combines machine learning with classical digital signal processing (DSP) and can operate at signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) as low as -2 dB. Its design also addresses spectrum use, speech quality, and power efficiency, all important considerations for voice communications over HF."

Most significantly, ARDC reports that manufacturers are beginning to integrate the mode directly into their radios, starting with a module that can be downloaded and installed on certain FlexRadio models. Users of other transceivers may run the mode through computers connected to their radios. More details are available from [FreeDV](https://freedv.org/) and on the [ARDC](https://ardc.org/) website.

Whatever Happened To RM-11828?

There's a an upgrade for one of Technician licensees' most common complaints and it's been sitting in an FCC docket since 2018. The petition would open modern digital modes like FT8 to Technicians on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus some phone privileges. Eight years later, it's still stuck in a bureaucratic backlog. With the FCC's current deregulation docket wide open is this the moment to actually push it through? The ARRL's petition addresses this one thoroughly: [ARRL Petition](#)

And this isn't a case of nobody pushing it. ARRL has filed notices on this exact docket as recently as December 2025, and individual public comments are still arriving. Of the 1,338 filings in that docket, only a couple oppose it. It's popular, essentially uncontested, and still stuck. Mostly, initiatives stall because everyone with something to lose shows up to fight it. Obviously, this is all because an agency simply hasn't made it a priority. Apparently, even eight years of steady advocacy from amateur radio's largest membership organization isn't enough to change that. However, this does not mean we simply stop trying. If it's important to the ham community then we should make it know to the FCC.

Think about this for a minute. Technician licenses make up roughly 49.1% of all licensed hams. And these are the ones statistically that don't go on to upgrade to General. Why? Maybe because of this very problem, Lack of band access. If we could give them a little more access it might encourage a change to upgrade. 49.1% is a lot of stalled operators! This needs to change. Now some of this could be a direct outcome of lack of "elmering" by those of us that have upgraded. Either way, RM-11828 might help make a difference if you combine this with a revival of "elmering" by the ham community. Just a thought.

73,
Dudley Pitts KM4IYQ
ARRL E. TN. ACC

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 TN in 2026 and 2027: *Unfortunately, Short Mtn Repeater Club Hamfest had to cancel this year. We hope they can bring it back next year.*

10/16-17/2026 – Chattanooga Hamfest – Ringgold, GA.

<https://hamfestchattanooga.net>

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

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

03/20/2027 – Sevier County Hamfest – Sevierville, TN.

<https://www.seviercountysars.info/>

04/10/2027 – Cleveland Amateur Radio Club Starfest – Cleveland, TN.

<https://www.carc.cc/>

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>

10/19-23 – School Club Roundup. - <https://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

10/31-11/01 – EME 50 – 1296 Mhz. - <https://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

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: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2026/October%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.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/>