



Volume 34 Number 1- January 2026

The Modulator

Newsletter and happenings of the Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club. Serving the Big South Fork Region since 1992.

If you enjoy reading our publication, be sure to open it fully or you will be automatically dropped from our mailing list in 6 months.



Interested in emergency communications? We have team in Fentress, Morgan and Scott counties looking for volunteers.

ARES



2026 has been designated by the ARRL Board of Directors as the Year of the Club, recognizing that radio clubs are the backbone of ARRL. The growth and development of amateur radio rely on our vibrant community of radio clubs. As BSFARC is an Affiliated Club we are eligible to participate! This should be an exciting promotion for our hobby and could help us better focus on the needs of our members while getting the word out to others.



ARRL has announced free membership for full-time students aged 21 and younger.

ARRL Membership

ARRL America250 Worked All States

A Year-Long Worked-All-States Operating Event Celebrating the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



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.

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). *As an affiliated club we count for those making contact with us under the club's call sign of W4BSF.*
- Earn WAS Triple Play by contacting all 50 states *on all three modes* (CW/Phone/Digital)

W1AW Operating Upcoming Schedule:

1-28-2026: Maine W1AW/1, Utah W1AW/7

2-4-2026: Alabama W1AW/4, Indiana W1AW/9, Vermont W1AW/1, Kansas W1AW/0

2-11-2026: Massachusetts W1AW/1, Florida W1AW/4

2-18-2026: Texas W1AW/5, Michigan W1AW/8

2-25-2026: Arizona W1AW/7, Georgia W1AW/4

3-4-2026: No activations

3-11-2026: Virginia W1AW/4, Guam W1AW/KH2



Club Bi-Monthly Meeting

February 12, 2026

Our next regular club meeting will be held on February 12th - 2026 at 7:00pm Eastern at Roane State Community College in Huntsville TN. This will be our bi-monthly business meeting plus a meet & greet. We always meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. Our agenda will include planning of special events and training sessions for 2026.

Club Bi-Monthly Training Session

March 12, 2026

Our training will be held on March 12th - 2026 at 7:00pm Eastern at Roane State Community College in Huntsville TN.

A shout out to Jamie KQ4ZIP who led a training session on creating amateur radio content for YouTube. It's a way of not only improving your operating skills but also to show others how you setup your station. Check out Jamie's YouTube channel [CQ Recon Fieldcraft - YouTube](#)

Meeting Minutes

If you did NOT receive the meeting minutes for the last meeting you may have been dropped from the club roster. Our member only portal



ARRL January Audio News

Listen to ARRL Audio News, available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features. More info | [Listen on Blubrry](#) | Also available on iTunes and Apple Podcasts

January 9th Audio News

January 23rd Audio News

The 2024 ARRL Annual Report: Promote, Protect, Inspire, Educate

By: Dudley KM4IYQ – ARRL E. TN. ACC

The recently released ARRL 2024 Annual Report outlines new and strategic paths aimed at inspiring youth while building on ARRL's five pillars that continue to support members and amateur radio worldwide...Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology, and Membership.

"With membership totaling over 137,000 at the end of 2024, ARRL stands as the world's largest organization of radio amateurs," states the first page of the report, which also notes that the membership retention rate increased to 79.9%, up from 77.8% the previous year

from the Club roster. Our member only portal password has also been changed. Contact Ricky (W4NRTango at gmail.com) to check on your membership status. Our dues are still only \$10.00 per year for the first person in your household!

Previous copies of 'The Modulator' are now on our web site. You can also subscribe to the newsletter there too.



In a fashion similar to the 2023 Volunteers on The Air (VOTA), ARRL will be celebrating the Year of The Club, as well as the 100th Anniversary of the ARRL Field Organization, and we will be holding a Year-Long Worked All States (WAS-250) operating event to recognize the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of the US Constitution.

To seek the operating event WAS-250 Award, all QSOs must be uploaded to, and confirmed by both QSO Partners, within Logbook of The World (LoTW). This Award will be applied for within LoTW, and usual WAS Award Processing Fees will be applicable.

There will also be Endorsements that include working all 50 States: The Endorsements include WAS by Band, by any or all of the three Modes (CW/Phone/Digital), Satellite, Working all 50-States contacting W1AW/Portable Stations, and Working all 50 States by Contacting ARRL Affiliated Club Stations

(ARRL will look at the call signs confirmed and compare it against the Club Affiliations Club Call Sign data base to determine how many of the stations worked represented Affiliated Clubs).

Our section leader KM4NYI David Thomas has been in touch with us and has indicated that Tennessee's turn will be in June and again in September. The BSFARC team is on the list

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, in his message in the report, shares how a visit to an amateur radio club changed his life forever, providing a foundation on which to build his years of involvement and enjoyment of ham radio.

"In 2024, the Board of Directors decided to prioritize reaching out to the next generation to inspire them about their future in STEM...science, technology, engineering, and math...and how ham radio can be part of their educational journey," said Roderick. "This new 'third advocacy,' which was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors at the July 2024 meeting, is critical to the future not only of ham radio, but also to this country's budding STEM professionals."

Among the initiatives highlighted in the report are the free ARRL Student Membership program, launched in May 2024 and significant growth for the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, which hosted a total of 85 teachers visiting from 31 states.

The report also recognizes that ARRL donors contributed more than \$2.1 million in 2024, fueling innovation, education, and investing in the future of amateur radio. The ARRL Diamond Club program set a record raising over \$1 million for the first time in the history of the program, which provides critical unrestricted revenue for ARRL programs above what membership dues alone can cover.

The annual report contains much more detailed information, personal stories, and insight into ARRL's increased investment and prioritization to develop the next generation of radio amateurs. Take some time to read the [2024 Annual Report](#).

Did You Know ARRL Has A YouTube Channel?

By: Dudley KM4IYQ – ARRL E. TN. ACC

Yes, ARRL has a YouTube channel with a vast

for consideration.

Club Apparel



The club has ordered some extra t-shirts and currently has 7 medium, 3 large and 8 XXL shirts available. Let Kelly KI4JAV know if you want and she will bring them to the next meeting. They are only \$7.00 each thanks to Rugby Screen Printers as we are able to purchase at a discounted rate. Show your support for BSFARC and Rugby Screen Printers by ordering yours today!

What happens when you press the magic TUNE button?

By John VA3KOT

What happens when you press the magic TUNE button on your radio, or external automatic tuner? You will likely hear the rapid clicking sound of relays trying different combinations of capacitors and inductors as it looks for the lowest SWR to present to the radio

BSFARC has a YouTube channel with a vast library of videos that you can show at your next club meeting or just view for your own personal entertainment and education. The subject variety is broad covering all aspects of amateur radio. The channel was first started in 2009 and since then has had more than 3.6M views.

I encourage you to take a look and browse the channel. There are equipment reviews and lab reports, training videos on various subjects, educational videos, and so much more than I can list here. Need a link?

Go to

<https://www.youtube.com/@ARRLHQ/videos>

“HAM” - Is It Bad, Is It Good, and Why?

By: Dudley KM4IYQ – ARRL E. TN. ACC

Ham radio and amateur radio are one in the same as we know it today. We all know the origins of radio but why are amateurs referred to as “hams” and where did that term come from? This question has been debated for years but, does anyone really know where it came from? My curiosity got the best of me so I had to take a deep dive into the term “ham”. Here's what I discovered.

Just about every dictionary source has a definition of a “ham” (not speaking about the pork kind), as being defined as a radio operator licensed to designated amateur radio frequencies for non-commercial, non-monetary, experimental, and recreational purposes including emergency communications. But that still doesn't tell us much and even why.

Now, historically it has been stated that it refers to it's use as a derogatory reference toward amateur radio operators by telegraph and commercial radio operators. Also, it happened to have been the station call sign of the Harvard Radio Club which used the first letter of the operators, Hyman, Almy, and Murray. There's also a reference of “ham” going back to 1908 referring to the first names

radio.

But, a "tuner" does NOT actually tune your antenna. It simply provides an impedance match between your antenna system and your transceiver. It used to be more accurately called a "transmatch" but that term is seldom used these days.

The transceiver may "see" a perfect match coming from the "tuner", but that low SWR exists only between the "tuner" and the radio. The SWR between the antenna system and the "tuner" might, in fact, be as high as 10:1! Like many other tuners, my LDG Z-11 Pro can resolve impedance mismatches up to 10:1. Is that bad? And what happens to the signal after it passes through the "tuner"?

Greater minds than mine have discussed those questions at great length. Here is my understanding of what happens. Let's say the antenna is an electrically short, non-resonant whip. It has a high capacitive reactance and will present a high SWR if it were to be directly connected to a transceiver. Instead, the antenna is connected to a "tuner" which transforms the impedance and provides a match close to the $50+j0$ ohms preferred by the transceiver.

But the SWR at the ANTENNA remains unchanged!

Will the antenna still radiate a signal? As is often said in antenna related forums, "RF gotta go somewhere". However, because the antenna has a high SWR, only part of the signal is radiated and the rest is reflected back down the coax toward the shack. It is often thought that the reflected signal is converted into heat in the tuner (or transceiver). While that might be expected according to the Laws of Thermodynamics, it is only partially true. Actually, most of the signal is re-reflected back toward the antenna where more signal is radiated with the remainder reflected, once again, back to its source. These back-and-forth reflections continue until there is no signal left to be radiated.

So all the signal eventually gets radiated then?

of the radio pioneers, Hertz, Armstrong, and Marconi. There's also a story that says amateurs were referred to by commercial telegraph operators as "hamfisted", hence the term, "ham". You see, back then voice communication was only a concept and amateurs only used Morse code to communicate. All of these etymologies are just old folklore that has been handed down through the years with surprisingly little evidence to confirm any of them as the true origin... except for one. And actually, this one has quite a bit of evidence.

Now, back in the 19th century, amateur stations and commercial and telegraph stations shared the same spectrum and in many cases the amateur stations were more powerful than the commercial stations. They both used Morse code and the two actually competed for signal space on the same spectrum of frequencies and this only fanned the flames of negativity by the commercial operators toward the amateurs due to ongoing interference. Thus, the derogatory term of "ham" was created meaning less than professional and maybe even "hamfisted" in the quality of their code. So, it seems to actually go back to the 19th century by commercial operators using it as a derogatory reference toward amateur operators.

However, fast forward to today and we find the term used as a positive reference and actually a "badge of pride" by amateurs worldwide. The derogatory use of the term "ham" faded away in the 20th century when amateur radio (excuse me, ham radio) had it's fastest growth around the world. During that growth period the term "ham" began to be commonly used in news articles and periodicals, thus becoming a common positive reference to amateur radio operators world wide. And the positive use of the term proudly lives on today!

I know, it's not really an exciting discovery but the etymologies of the term "ham" are colorful and interesting to say the least. It was once a bad thing, but became a good thing and continues on today. I have to say, I'm proud to be a "ham" radio operator and embrace the term even more knowing it's long and colorful

Once again, the Laws of Thermodynamics apply. Let's assume the antenna is connected to the shack via a length of coax, and the tuner is in the shack. It could be an internal antenna tuner built into the transceiver, or an external tuner. As the signal passes along the coax toward the antenna it is attenuated due to the ohmic losses in the cable. At each reflection a little more of the signal is converted into heat in the coax. So, no, all the signal is not eventually radiated.

The transceiver reports a low SWR, but that only extends as far as the "tuner". Between the tuner and the antenna signal losses are incurred due to the impedance mismatch. The amount of loss depends on the degree of impedance mismatch in the antenna system. So now what? Non-resonant antennas are bad?

No, non-resonant antennas are not bad at all. If the big issue is lossy coax, but we use a very short coax - or no coax at all - the loss may be insignificant. In a field portable situation, it is often possible to directly connect an antenna to the "tuner" or transceiver, eliminating the coax completely. If the antenna is non-resonant and a long transmission line is required, the coax may be replaced with ladder line, window line or open-wire line which has very low loss.

Another alternative is to use a remote antenna tuner. The signal will still be attenuated as it travels along the coax from the transceiver out toward the antenna, but the remote tuner will reduce the number of reflections necessary to radiate as much signal as possible.

Coax affects SWR

It is important to note that long lengths of coax affect the SWR seen by the radio. Some signal is lost in the coax, and that is also true for common mode current reflected back from the antenna. This means the SWR seen by the radio may appear to be better than it really is at the antenna.

A non-resonant high SWR antenna used with a tuner incurs insertion loss in the tuner and

term even more knowing it's long and colorful history. How about you? Aren't you proud to be called a "Ham", too? Our predecessors went through a lot to get us where we are today. But, look at us now!



Let us know if you are ready for the exam at W4BSF@BSFARC.ORG as we can schedule a session just for you!

Local and In-Person Exams

The VE (Volunteer Examiner) team has made the transition to electronic submission for testing documents. While we still only do in-person testing the applicant can choose to take a paper exam or complete their test using a computer. Forms are then emailed to the applicant, ARRL and to the FCC for faster processing. The ARRL testing fee is still \$15 for adults and under the age of 18 it is only \$5. The \$35 license fee is paid directly to the FCC and with the ARRL youth program they will reimburse the youths that fee! We will work with you to schedule an exam in your area at a convenient time. No more waiting, long drives or trying to take an on-line test with multiple cameras. We try to make it as easy as possible to take but it's up to you to pass!

The technician question pool will change in July 2026.

LICENSE EXAM

Calendar of Events 2026
(Tentative) Dates in yellow
have NOT been confirmed
yet.

resistive loss from multiple reflections back and forth along the coax. These losses are not necessarily a concern and should be weighed against the convenience of being able to use the tuner to match multiple bands. A resonant antenna may incur less loss due to no tuner being required and low SWR at the antenna but it is a single band antenna.

There are situations in which only an inefficient, non-resonant antenna is available. In that case the inefficiency may be combatted by increasing the power transmitted. Paraphrasing the FCC's Part 97.313 rules: An amateur station should use as much transmitter power as is necessary to carry out the desired communications. Clearly, if you are a die-hard QRPer and you only have an inefficient, non-resonant antenna to work with ... well that's the fun of QRP isn't it?

This is a very complex topic and I can't pretend to be an expert, so this post is intended to present the way I understand it. You may disagree, or have other explanations or opinions. If so, please share what you know in the comments.

<https://hamradiooutsidethebox.ca/2025/09/09/what-happens-when-you-press-the-magic-tune-button/>

AN ORBITAL HOUSE OF CARDS

Earth's orbital environment has become dangerously fragile. A [new study](#) led by Sarah Thiele of Princeton University warns that if satellite collision-avoidance systems were knocked offline by a major solar storm, a catastrophic collision in low-Earth orbit could occur in as little as 2.8 days.

Researchers call this ticking countdown the **CRASH Clock** (short for Collision Realization And Significant Harm). It measures how long it would take, on average, for a debris-producing collision to occur if satellites suddenly lost situational awareness and stopped maneuvering. In 2018, before today's megaconstellations filled the skies, the



1/8/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
1/17/2026	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
1/18/2026	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
1/24/2026	Winter Field Day
1/25/2026	Winter Field Day
2/13/2026	HamCation Orlando FL
2/14/2026	HamCation Orlando FL
2/15/2026	HamCation Orlando FL
2/12/2026	BSFARC Meeting/Meet & Greet
3/13/2026	MTARS Tullahoma Hamfest
3/14/2026	MTARS Tullahoma Hamfest
3/12/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
3/15/2026	Sevier County 2026 Hamfest
4/9/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
4/12/2026	Freefest Bartlett Swap (Memphis)
4/18/2026	Greenville TN Hamfest
4/18/2026	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
4/19/2026	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
4/25/2026	Big South Fork Spring Planting Day Festival
5/14/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
5/15/2026	Hamvention Dayton OH
5/16/2026	Hamvention Dayton OH
5/16/2026	TN Mountain Laurel Festival
5/17/2026	Hamvention Dayton OH
6/6/2026	KY QSO Party
6/6/2026	Museum Ship Weekend SES
6/7/2026	Museum Ship Weekend SES
6/7/2026	KY QSO Party
6/11/2026	BSFARC Meeting/Meet & Greet
6/13/2026	Knoxville Hamfest/ARRL convention
6/27/2026	ARRL Field Day
6/28/2026	ARRL Field Day
7/9/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
7/11/2026	Greater Nashville & Middle Tennessee Hamquest

CRASH Clock stood at 121 days. Today, it's less than three.

Orbital traffic is now at unprecedented levels, especially in dense shells of Starlink spacecraft near 550 km altitude. The study shows that close encounters between space objects happen every 20 seconds across low-Earth orbit. According to SpaceX's most recent biannual report, Starlink satellites alone executed 144,404 collision-avoidance maneuvers between Dec. 1, 2024, and May 31, 2025.

At the best of times, avoiding collisions requires constant, precise maneuvering. But what would happen if satellite operators no longer knew exactly where their spacecraft were? That scenario is not hypothetical. During the geomagnetic superstorm of May 10-11, 2024, more than 5,000 satellites made emergency maneuvers to maintain their orbits ([full story](#)). Most were Starlinks. Position uncertainties grew to kilometers--exactly the kind of disruption envisioned by the CRASH Clock. Fortunately, the storm subsided before a major collision occurred.

Satellite operators have long feared a doomsday scenario called [Kessler Syndrome](#)--a runaway cascade of satellite destruction triggered by a single debris-producing impact. This paper argues we may not be in a Kessler cascade yet, but we are operating in conditions where one bad solar storm or software failure could start the CRASH Clock ticking.

ARLB015 FCC Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15; Continues Amateur Use of Four Additional 60-Meter Channels, and Updates 420 MHz Coordination

7/19/2026	MCARC (McMinn) Ham Fest
7/18/2026	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
7/19/2026	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
8/13/2026	BSFARC Meeting/Meet & Greet
8/22/2026	Huntsville AL Hamfest
8/23/2026	Huntsville AL Hamfest
8/24/2026	Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest – Lebanon, TN.
9/5/2026	Endurance Horse Ride
9/6/2026	Endurance Horse Ride
9/6/2026	Tennessee QSO Party
9/10/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
	https://overmountain-rally.com/volunteer-positions
9/19/2026	W4DXCC by SEDCO Pigeon Forge
9/19/2026	Big South Fork Haunting in the Hills Story Telling Festi
10/8/2026	BSFARC Meeting/Meet & Greet
10/17/2026	Big South Fork Blue Heron Ghost Mine
10/17/2026	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
10/18/2026	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
10/23/2026	NB 100 Race
10/24/2026	NB 100 Race
11/12/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
12/5/2026	Skywarn Recognition Day
12/10/2026	BSFARC Meeting/Meet & Greet
12/12/2026	ARRL 10-Meter Contest
12/13/2026	ARRL 10-Meter Contest

LOCAL HAM FESTS 2025-2026



03/06/2026 - 03/07/2026

[Charlotte Hamfest](#)

Location: Concord, NC

Information

By: Dudley KM4IYQ – ARRL E. TN. ACC

Basically, amateurs radio operators have been granted an expanded frequency band-wide in the middle portion of the 60M band from what was 5358.5 kHz to 5351.5 – 5366.5 kHz (15 kHz). Details are as follows:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited Report and Order adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meterband that was approved for worldwide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15 (World Radio communication Conference 2015) Final Acts. The Commission also agreed with a petition from ARRL to continue to allow amateur operations on four existing 60-meter channels outside the international allocation with a full 100 watts. The new rules will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.

The Report and Order can be found online at <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-final-rules-implementing-wrc-15>. A copy of the report has been included in this bulletin email. Specifically, the Commission allocated a new frequency allocation of 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP. This new allocation change of the band pertains to what use to be the 5358.5 portion. Now, it gives amateurs a band-wide of 15kHz to move about using Phone USB, RTTY, and Data.

The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing other four channels 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions, but antenna gain must be used to calculate ERP. Emissions on these four existing channels will remain unchanged.

The 60-meter allocation is available to amateurs holding a General Class or above license. The maximum permissible signal

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Mecklenburg ARS

Website: <http://charlottehamfest.org>

[Learn More](#)

03/13/2026 - 03/14/2026

[MTARS Hamfest - Tullahoma, TN](#)

Location: Tullahoma, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society (MTARS)

Website: <http://www.qsl.net/mtars>

[Learn More](#)

04/18/2026 - [Greeneville Hamfest](#)

Location: Greeneville, TN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Andrew Johnson ARC

Website: <http://greenevillehamfest.com>

[Learn More](#)

06/13/2026 -

[Knoxville Hamfest, ARRL Tennessee State Convention](#)

Location: Knoxville, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville

Website: <http://www.w4bbb.org>

Obsolete Part 97 Rules to be Deleted February 10, 2026

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October 2025 adopted a Report and Order to delete almost 400 obsolete rules pertaining to its wireless services. As [previously reported by ARRL](#), among the deletions were four in Part 97 that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

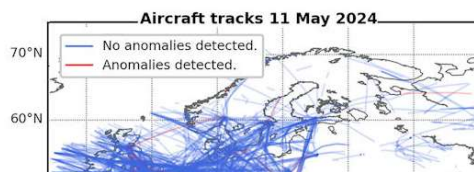
ARRL reports that the notice of the Report and Order has now been published in the Federal Register. Unless an objection is

bandwidth is 2.8 kHz. Please Note: Amateurs are cautioned that this allocation is strictly on a secondary basis, and amateurs must avoid interfering with non-amateur stations using this spectrum. This obligation includes the responsibility to monitor for such stations using appropriate receiver bandwidths. The FCC emphasized that "allowing amateur operations in this band while fully protecting incumbent primary Federal operations is our priority, and even intermittent interference in this band could jeopardize important Federal operations."

The Commission left open ARRL's 2017 Petition for Rulemaking to implement this WRC allocation (RM-11785), stating that "we expect the Commission may address any necessary power adjustments for the new 15 kilohertz international allocation in that proceeding." ARRL will be observing operations in the new band to evaluate the effect of the 9.15-watt limit and has already been monitoring the regulations and experiences of amateurs in other countries.

Finally, in the same Report and Order, the FCC updated 420 - 450 MHz coordination and contact information for geographic areas where the peak envelope power (PEP) of amateur stations operating is generally limited to 50 watts. There was no substantive change to the areas covered by the power limitation. To view the entire FCC report go to: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-25-60A1.pdf> When do these FCC rule changes go into effect? According to the report, 30 days after the FCC posting which appeared on December 9th of 2025. I interpret this to be on or after January 9th, 2026. I will update you all if I find out differently.

AIRPLANES 'LOST' DURING A GEOMAGNETIC STORM



Federal Register. Unless an objection is raised by January 2 that the Commission finds to deserve its consideration, the following four Part 97 provisions will be deleted as of February 10, 2026:

1. § 97.27. This provision is duplicative of a statutory provision related to the FCC's right to modify station licenses.
2. § 97.29. This provision specified an obsolete procedure to replace paper licenses. ARRL proposed deleting this section in comments filed earlier this year.
3. § 97.315 (b)(2). This obsolete provision grandfathered HF amplifiers purchased before April 28, 1978 by an amateur radio operator for use at that operator's station, and grandfathered those manufactured before April 28, 1978, for which a marketing waiver was issued.
4. § 97.521(b) and Appendix 2. This rule and appendix relate to obsolete VEC regions.

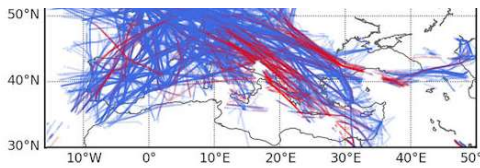
<https://www.arrl.org/news/obsolete-part-97-rules-to-be-deleted-february-10-2026>

State QSO Parties



Here is a link to a YouTube video about state QSO parties: [LINK](#)

- February 7th: [Vermont](#)
February 7th: [Minnesota](#)
February 7-8th: [British Columbia](#)
February 28th: [South Carolina](#)
March 1st: [North Carolina](#)
March 14-15th: [Oklahoma](#)
March 14-15th: [Idaho](#)
March 15-16th: [Wisconsin](#)
March 21-22nd: [Virginia](#)
-



A [new study](#) published in *Space Weather* suggests that flying during an extreme geomagnetic storm may not be a great idea. During the superstorm of May 10-13, 2024, disturbances in Earth's ionosphere disrupted GPS tracking systems for airplanes flying over Europe. Some planes briefly appeared hundreds of kilometers from their true locations.

Researchers Erik Schmölter and Jens Berdermann of the German Aerospace Center analyzed more than 700 million [ADS-B](#) messages from 18,000 aircraft. ADS-B messages are short radio broadcasts sent by aircraft about once per second, reporting their GPS-derived positions. Air traffic controllers and nearby aircraft use them for real-time tracking. The superstorm caused significant position errors for days.

The problem was especially acute on May 11th when the sun hit Earth with an X5.8-class solar flare. Intense solar X-ray and radio emission caused direct interference with GPS signals on the sunlit side of Earth. As many as 53% of satellite-receiver links failed at latitudes south of ~50° N.

Confused? So were the GPS receivers. Read the original study [here](#).
<https://spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=15&month=01&year=2026>

M.O.R.E. Project

The Make Operating Radio Easier (MORE) Project is an initiative to reduce both gender and age imbalances in Amateur (Ham) Radio, through education and hands-on activities. The ambitious goals of the MORE Project (running through June 2026) are: to train and license 500 new U.S. Radio Amateurs; to examine and explore various types of radio signals, such as by using Software Defined Radio (SDR); and to help our new Hams learn basic communications protocols by observing and participating in HF and VHF operations.

Amateur Radio involves all of the aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and can lead to degrees and occupations in these fields. While Hams enjoy this lifelong hobby world-wide, they are also a critical part of local, national and international emergency readiness, as their communications are possible even during severe infrastructure failures due to catastrophic circumstances.

Our training course is provided in 6 sessions, typically one 2.5-hour session per week, and may be scheduled to occur virtually and/or in person. Students must have access to the Internet in order to view and download study materials, and to participate in Zoom sessions using video and audio. Our students are also expected to study, using the materials that we provide, at least 1/2 hour per day, during all 6 weeks of the MORE Course. Our grant covers the costs of training, testing and licensing students who have applied and been accepted into the MORE Project. Students who attend and complete a MORE Project Approved Course, pass the Amateur Radio Technician exam, and receive their callsign and license from the FCC, will receive a handheld 2-way radio from the MORE Project, plus additional coaching in how to Get On The Air.

Read full article at: <https://n2re.org/m-o-r-e-project>

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Special Event Stations

Contact these stations and help commemorate an historical occasion or other special event. Many special event stations provide a special QSL card or certificate.

Certificates and QSL cards: To obtain a certificate from any of the special-event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9x12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information.

February 2026

02/06/2026 | 2026 AM Rally Operating Event

Feb 6-Feb 9, 0000Z-0700Z, WA1QIX, National. AM Rally. 1.885 3.880 7.290 14.286. Certificate. None, None, None. amrally.com

02/14/2026 | 6th Annual Pluto Discovery Anniversary S.E.

Feb 14-Feb 22, 0000Z-2359Z, W7P, Flagstaff, AZ. Northern Arizona DX Association. 14.266 21.366 28.366 7.266. Certificate & QSL. W7P -Pluto Special Event, 6315 Townsend Winona Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86004. www.nadxa.com

02/14/2026 | George Washington's Birthday at Mount Vernon

Feb 14-Feb 15, 1000Z-0300Z, K4US, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. 7.042 7.242 14.042 14.242. QSL. MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. mvarc.org

02/14/2026 | Ice Station WØJH - Frozen Minnesota Lake Portable

Feb 14-Feb 16, 1600Z-2300Z, WØJH, Stillwater, MN. Stillwater (MN) Amateur Radio Association - SARA. 21.360 14.260 7.260 3.860. Certificate. Shel Mann, 1618 Pine St W, Stillwater, MN 55082. www.Radioham.org

02/14/2026 | Iwo Jima Flag Raising

Feb 14, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250 14.070 DK624 DSTAR on Base System

02/16/2026 | Antarctic Activity Week

Feb 16-Feb 22, 0000Z-2359Z, K4C, McDonough, GA. World Antarctic Program. 14.270. QSL. Robert Hines, 1978 Snapping Shoals Rd, McDonough, GA 30252. k4mzu.net

02/21/2026 | Calvert High School STEM Expo

Feb 21, 1600Z-2000Z, K3CAL, Prince Frederick, MD. Calvert Amateur Radio Assoc.. 14.250 14.275 14.300 14.325. QSL. Calvert Amateur Radio Assoc., P.O. Box 306, Huntingtown, MD 20639. k3cal.club

02/21/2026 | SWR Magazine Waves Weekend

Feb 21, 1200Z-2359Z, KP3SWR, Camuy, PR. SWR Magazine. 14.245 21.245 28.445. QSL. Jose Candelaria , C33 Extension del Carmen, Camuy, PR 00627. swrmagazine.org

02/21/2026 | War Shipping Administration created 1942

Feb 21, 1300Z-2100Z, K3S, Odenton, MD. Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. 7 14 21 28. QSL. ULIS R FLEMING K3LU, 980 Patuxent Road, Odenton, MD 21113. qrz.com/db/k3s

02/23/2026 | Republic of Texas SES

Feb 23-Apr 21, 0000Z-2359Z, WA5DTK, Montgomery, TX. TX History Operators Club. 7.030 7.230 14.040 `4.260. QSL. Barry Brewer, 10519 Bilsing Ct, Montgomery, TX 77356.

14.070 PKSS1 DSTAR on Papa System
Repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Museum Ship,
910 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA
92101.

02/14/2026 | President Day/Lincoln Birthday Celebration

Feb 14-Feb 15, 1600Z-2200Z, N9L,
Metamora, IL. K9WRA/Woodford County IL
Repeater Association. 7.205 MHz. QSL. Greg
Hollenberg/K0GSH, 407 S Henry Street,
Eureka, IL 61530. k9wra.repeater@gmail.com

02/14/2026 | Valentines Day Special Event

Feb 14, 1700Z-2300Z, AB5ER, Romance, AR.
North Central Arkansas Amateur Radio
Service . 14..260. Certificate. Roger Gray,
North Central Arkansas Amateur Radio
Service , PO Box 166, Searcy, AR 72145-
0166. <http://www.ncaars.org>

02/14/2026 | War Shipping Administration created 1942

Feb 14, 1330Z-2100Z, K3S, Port of Baltimore.
Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. 7,14,18,21,28
MHz. QSL. Ullis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd,
Odenton, MD 21113. qrz.com/db/k3s

02/25/2026 | Annual Snowbird Field Day

Feb 25, 1500Z-2359Z, W7ASL, Mesa, AZ.
Sunlife Amateur Radio Club. 50.329 28.329
21.329 14.329. QSL. Tom Goforth, 4324 East
Dragoon Circle, Mesa, AZ 85206.
sunlifearc.org

02/28/2026 | 2026 Rare Disease Day Special Event

Feb 28, 0000Z-2359Z, N4R, Sparta, TN.
KR4EE. 14.070 14.080 28.074 21.074. QSL.
Jill Dybka, 7737 Sparta HWY, Sparta, TN
38583. KR4EE@arrl.net

02/28/2026 | Freeze Your Keys - 22nd Winter Operating Event

Feb 28, 1400Z-2200Z, W0EBB, Leavenworth,
KS. Kickapoo QRP ARC. 7.035 CW 7.240
SSB 14.058 CW 14.325 SSB. QSL. Gary
Auchard - W0EBB, 34058 167th Street,
Leavenworth, KS 66048. Please send a SASE
with your QSL card. Other bands will be used
also if open. w0mna74@gmail.com

ARRL LINK SPECIAL

EVENT STATIONS

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special event stations click the adjacent link:

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MailPoet