

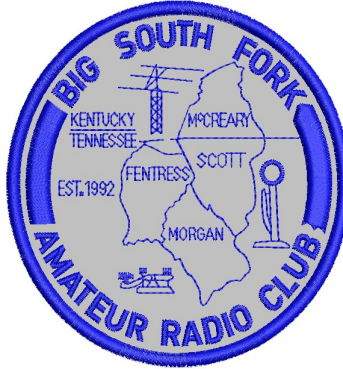
**kc8spv@gmail.com**

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**From:** Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club <w4bsf@bsfarc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 24, 2026 6:36 PM  
**To:** kc8spv@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Modulator June- 2026

[View this in your browser.](#)

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Volume 34 Number 6- June 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.*

**From the editor: This month we are still testing a new format and hope to get your feedback. Let us know if it is easier to read or if you want us to go back to a 2-column format.**

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Club Bi-Monthly Training Session

July 9, 2026

Our training will be held on July 9th - 2026 at 7:00pm Eastern at Roane State Community College in Huntsville TN. Weather permitting we ask that you bring either your portable station setup or your mobile unit for a show and tell in the parking lot. Bring a chair or two as we hope to have multiple

setups and for those who bring their gear if they could do a quick 5-10 minute overview of their setup would be appreciated. The group would then move to the next portable set-up to learn about it.

## Club Bi-Monthly Meeting

August 13, 2026

Our next regular club meeting will be held on August 13th - 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.

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## 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 password has also been changed. Contact Nancy (KC8VTT 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!

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**MODULATOR**  
**NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES**

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

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Museum Ships On The Air Weekend June 6-7th



Thanks to Buddy W7BSF as he pulled off another successful event! While the band conditions were not in our favor we seemed to hold our own as compared to other ships. Before dupes we had 245 contacts with a couple of west coast contacts and even the Dominican Republic. Carol KQ4QFD, Nancy KC8VTT and Julian W5EDQ was there to cheer the operators on. Melinda (W7BSF's XYL) stopped by with enough food and snacks to keep everyone going strong. Between Dave W9DXP, Leslie KQ4IGX, Bill KF4TY and Buddy W7BSF they took turns operating either the FT8 station or the SSB radio. Sunday we were limited on time as we have quite a bit of gear to pack up. Buddy will have 2026 QSL cards available to stations that request one.

#### USS TENNESSEE INFO

After the event we received a radiogram from KC1KVY as Bob wanted to say thanks for the contact. Very nice gesture.

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## 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.**



The BSFARC team had quite a few shifts for the W1AW/4 portion of event which was from 6-10 (technically it started Tuesday but with a new UTC day) through 6-16. Dave K4IDB started Tuesday evening with a pile-up right from the start of his one-hour shift. On Wednesday Bill KF4TY took a turn with an afternoon and early evening shift for a total of 6-hours of airtime resulting in 245 QSOs. For June 10th W1AW/4 racked up 1389 QSOs (not all us).

On Thursday Bill KF4TY hit the ground running (or panting) as he had a mid-morning (9AM-Noon) shift followed by a 6PM-9PM activation. During the early evening shift, he made contact with the US Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw Ice Breaker. He also paused the activation to talk to a very young YL about 10 years old who with the help of her father was hunting for W1AW/4. After a brief exchange the next couple of contacts were DX stations from Spain, Romina, Italy and Guatemala. Bill thinks he spoke to the only ham radio operator in both Montana and North Dakota LOL and was able to contribute 175 contacts for the day. Total QSOs for all W1AW/4 operators for Thursday was 840 for a total of 2,229.

On Friday it was Buddy W7BSF's turn with a Noon to 3PM shift. After that Bill KF4TY did some FT8 between 3PM and 4PM before switching to SSB until 6:00PM but could only add 41 contacts. The bands were mis-having as it seemed like everyone was struggling as all W1AW/4 operators only managed 437 contacts bringing us up to 2,666.

The early bird gets the worm so Bill KF4TY was on the air at 6AM Saturday morning for a 3 hour shift before transferring the station's call sign to the Knoxville club who was setup at the ham fest. There were no worms or many contacts that early on Saturday. The bands were empty except for static, but Bill managed to get another 54 to help push the total for TN to 3,064

Dave K4IDB made his return to the air-waves Sunday between 9AM and Noon. We understand Jenny is getting good at listening and logging. Buddy W7BSF took to the airwaves between Noon and

3PM. Tennessee operators as of Saturday had 3,670 contacts. As you can tell things were slowing down as band conditions were not very good and most hunters had their call signs in the logbook already.

Joe N4YLA not wishing to miss the excitement kicked off Monday morning with a shift between 6AM and 9AM while most of us slept! Buddy W7BSF was calling CQ from Noon until 3PM. That evening we found Bill KF4TY back on the air between 6PM and 9PM.

Tuesday was just another Monday with Joe N4YLA starting the early bird shift from 6AM to 9AM then Buddy W7BSF from Noon until 3PM. As the Tennessee portion wound down Bill KF4TY closed out the session from 6PM to 8PM as the new UTC started.

Overall, all the operators across the state had about 4,054 logs but they were missing some. Still not sure how many hours our club operated as some picked up additional shifts.

If this sounds like fun to you it was! Your next chance between September 16th through the 22nd for the America 250 event where once again W1AW/4 TN will be on the air. Let us know if you can help us make even more contacts.

**EXTERNAL LINK GENERAL  
INFORMATION**

**W1AW Operating Upcoming Schedule:**

7-8-2026: No activations

7-13-2026: Georgia

7-15-2026: Indiana

7-15-2026: Pennsylvania

7-15-2026: Utah

7-22-2026: Rhode Island

7-22-2026: South Carolina

7-29-2026: Minnesota

7-29-2026: Wyoming

8-5-2026: Iowa

8-5-2026: New Jersey

8-5-2026: Louisiana

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**2026 ARRL Field Day**

**June 27 - 28**



ARRL Field Day is a radio communications event that brings together amateur radio operators (also called “hams”) within your community. The theme for 2025 Field Day is “Radio Connects” – highlighting the many ways that wireless technology connects people across distances near and far. The event is part picnic, campout, practice for emergencies, informal contest, and most of all, fun! ARRL Field Day is the most popular ham radio activity held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend in June each year, more than 31,000 hams get together with their radio clubs, schools, or friends to operate from remote locations.

For many radio clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights on their annual calendar. A typical Field Day site will showoff many aspects of amateur radio and its many roles.

Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to practice their emergency communications readiness. ARRL Field Day is an annual demonstration and invites the general public and organizations to see how amateur radio can serve in an emergency, When All Else Fails®. Hams are well-known for their communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations. Despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems – or maybe because they are so complex – ham radio has been called into action, again and again, to provide communications in crises when it really matters.

Amateur radio also inspires the next generation of technical leaders by providing a hands-on sandbox where students gain experience in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

For those with a competitive spirit, Field Day stations compete to make radio contacts with as many other stations as possible while learning to operate radio equipment in challenging situations and less-than-optimal conditions. These same skills are used by hams who volunteer to help with large, preplanned, non-emergency events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fundraisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades, and exhibits at fairs, malls, and museums.

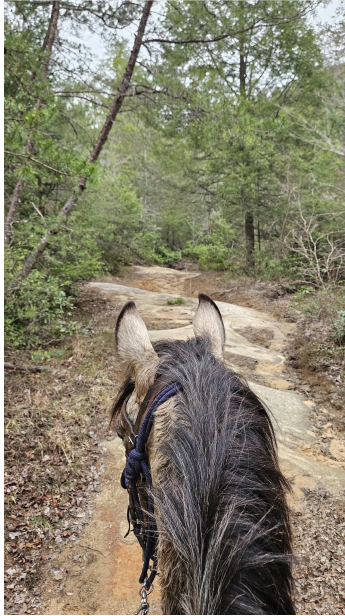
This year we encourage you to have your own mini field day at your home or maybe in the park as we hope to catch you on the air.

**EXTERNAL LINK TO ARRL  
FIELD DAY**

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# BSF Endurance Horse Ride

September 11-12, 2026



This two day event is held near the Bandy Creek visitors center in Big South Fork and is celebrating its 32nd year. While details are forthcoming they typically have a 25 and 50 mile endurance horse ride starting early on Friday morning. The rides are then repeated on Saturday. We are reaching out to them to see if they need our help. Our past roles included calling in rider status (as they pass your location) and any health and welfare traffic. There are NO aid stations as we may be the only person the rider sees on the course. All locations can be driven to. Let us know that you are able to help support this event as we await more information from them. You can drop us an email at [W4BSF@BSAFRC.ORG](mailto:W4BSF@BSAFRC.ORG) if you can help in anyway with this event.

**ENDURANCE RIDE (2025  
INFO)**



October 23-24, 2026

***First a big thank you for the recent donation we received from the 2025 No Business 100 event.***

The race is on as they sold out in a matter of hours. This year being even the course will be run in a counter clockwise direction. That means that our normal aid-stations will be active Saturday during the day. Our chairperson for coordinating communication volunteers is once again Joe N4YLA. This is a great way of not only giving back to the community but also practicing your emergency radio skills. No prior experience is necessary and if needed we can pair up unlicensed volunteers with a radio operator. We will be providing health and welfare communications in addition to participant information such as drops and those in need of transportation. More to come but reach out to Joe and let him know that you are able to help support this event. You can also drop us an email at [W4BSF@BSAFRC.ORG](mailto:W4BSF@BSAFRC.ORG) if you can help in anyway with this event.

The BSFARC web page is a work in progress and the link is below:

**No Business 100  
Information**

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## JOTA October 16-18, 2026

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an annual Scouting event that connects Scouts around the world with the use of amateur radio. Short-wave radio signals carry their voices to virtually any corner of the world. The use of amateur radio techniques offers an extra educational dimension for Scouts. Many boys and girls grasp the opportunity to discover the world of wireless radio techniques and electronics.

Thousands of Amateur Radio operators will assist the Scouts over the JOTA-JOTI weekend with their knowledge, equipment, enthusiasm and ethics. In some countries, Scouts may speak over the air themselves; in others, special permission can be obtained for Scouts to speak on the radio themselves during the JOTA weekend.

As a club we have a unique opportunity to introduce amateur radio to the next generations of hams. Ideally, we need a volunteer to lead this effort. With about 200 days before the event time is getting short as we should register a special event station for the weekend in the QST magazine and on the ARRL web site. We also need to plan for a couple of training sessions to get the scouts ready for on the air contacts. It truly takes a village to make something like this happen. The question is there enough interest to approach one or more scout troops to see if we can team up together? Let us know at the next club meeting or send us an email at [W4BSF@BSFARC.ORG](mailto:W4BSF@BSFARC.ORG).

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## State QSO Parties



July 25-26: Alabama

August 8-9: Maryland

August 22-23: Hawaii

August 22-23: Ohio

August 29-30: Kansas

**September 6-7: Tennessee**

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

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## LOCAL HAM FESTS 2026



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

<http://midtnhamquest.com/>

07/18/2026 – McMin County ARC Ham Fest – Athens, TN.  
<https://mcminnarc.github.io/mcarc-website/>

09/19/2026 - W4DXCC by SEDCO – Pigeon Forge, TN.  
<https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/w4dxcc-by-sedco-2>

10/17/2026 – Short Mountain Repeater Club Hamfest – Wartrace, TN.  
<https://www.smrclub.com/>

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

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## TN ARES Open Positions



Our club has been and continues to be a big supporter of emergency communications and TN ARES. We can continue that support by helping them to recruit a amateur radio operator to take on the role of Emergency Coordinator as we have a vacancy in Morgan county. Joe N4YLA has is now officially the Scott EC. As a club we would also like to update our roster of ARES volunteers in order to help out the our ECs develop their teams. Drop us an email at [W4BSF@BSFARC.ORG](mailto:W4BSF@BSFARC.ORG) if you are interested in emergency communications.

**ARES**

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# ARRL

the national association for  
**amateur radio**®

Every amateur operator counts in the efforts to preserve our band privileges and the growth of amateur radio. We need to unite under one banner to support the efforts of the ARRL to keep the lobbyists and campaigns going. So, please join or renew your membership today! There has never been a more important time than now to make a difference in the future for yourself and your fellow hams! Go to: <https://www.arrl.org/membership> Together we can keep our bands free from corporate takeover at the FCC. And thanks for your support!

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

**ARRL Membership**

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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.



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From Our Section Manager:  
*The Spirit of the Wouff Hong*

In any institution as old as amateur radio, traditions and symbols of the art appear, become a part of it, and eventually fade. While our traditions are many, our symbols are few. Among these few, one of the oldest is the Wouff Hong.

What is the Wouff Hong, you ask? To answer that question, we must go back over a hundred years, to 1917, when there was an anonymous writer contributing to QST magazine under the penname of "The Old Man".

The Old Man wrote a popular series of funny stories in a fiery, hot-tempered style that lambasted amateur radio operators who were poor operators. It was said that he exposed the poor operating practices of the day in a way that drew laughter even from the readers who often recognized themselves as the targets of his ire.

In one of these articles, The Old Man complained of a particular QSO he heard that included what sounded like the words Wouff Hong. That turned out to be a phrase that caught on with the readers. Two years later, in 1919, The Old Man sent a package to the editor of QST that contained what he claimed was a real Wouff Hong...an instrument of punishment for all those amateurs who were found guilty of poor operating practices. By action of the ARRL Board of Directors at their May 1919 meeting, a motion was passed that the Wouff Hong was to be framed and hung in the Office of the Secretary of the League.

Over the next few years, the story of the Wouff Hong gained traction. In 1923, a secret society was formed, the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong. The initiation ceremony was an elaborate affair, complete with secret handshakes and passwords. Held at midnight, at least a half-dozen actors in ornate costumes put on a play about the spirit of amateur radio. Inductees into the secret society swore to "ever respect the rights of others, treat my fellow amateurs with friendliness and courtesy, abide by the rules and regulations of the ARRL, and obey strictly the radio laws of their country".

Further, they promised to speak and teach the truth to their fellow amateurs, not allow slander of the league to go unrebuked, conduct themselves in a manner as to bring honor to the organization, and support it to the best of their ability.

Just who exactly was "The Old Man? After his death in 1936, it was revealed The Old Man was none other than Hiram Percy Maxim... radio pioneer, inventor, and co-founder of the ARRL. Maxim never explained the odd shape of the Wouff Hong or the manner of its use as an instrument of torture. We'll leave that up to your imagination.

In the decades that followed, midnight Wouff Hong induction ceremonies were part and parcel of large, national gatherings and hamfests. The legend grew but began to fade as we entered the 21st century.

These days, most of us have too little time in our busy day-to-day lives to have a costume made up, rehearse an elaborate stage show, and perform it at midnight on a hamfest weekend. Inductions into the Royal Society of the Wouff Hong have trickled off to the point where the league no longer promotes it... but that shouldn't mean we relegate the Wouff Hong (and what it stands for) into the history books.

No, the spirit of the Wouff Hong should continue! The need to promote good amateur practice, solid behaviors, and respect for the hobby is just as important today as it was in amateur radio's infancy. Today, we gather to remember and recall the Wouff Hong legend, celebrate its history, and keep its spirit alive.

To this end, there is an amateur radio operator among us today who exemplifies all the good qualities that inductees into the Royal Society of the Wouff Hong swore to. Tim Berry, WB4GBI has been a fixture of the Knoxville amateur radio scene since he was a teen-ager. A life-member and loyal supporter of the ARRL, Tim is someone many of us have the privilege to call a friend.

"In recognition of Tim's contributions to amateur radio and the league, I present you with this replica of the Wouff Hong. Keep this in your ham station and always remember the qualities needed to avoid actually having to use this tool."

The Wouff Hong replica was hand-made by ARRL Life-member and TN Section Technical Specialist Lyle Juroff/K9FIK of Jefferson City, TN. It even included its own matching carrying case.

73,  
David KM4NYI  
David Thomas / KM4NYI  
Section Manager  
ARRL Tennessee Section

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## TN Hamfests/Conventions - Knoxville Hamfest

The Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville held their 59th annual hamfest on Saturday, June 13. Over 700 attendees enjoyed over 6000 square feet of indoor vendor space and an even larger boneyard outside where the weather cooperated by being sunny and warm.

They also hosted the annual ARRL Tennessee Section Convention where Section Manager David Thomas/KM4NYI introduced the Volunteer State Worked All Counties event, to begin on August 1. There was also a presentation about the Wouff Hong and its history, complete with a replica Wouff Hong that was presented to Tim Berry WB4GBI in recognition of his contributions to the hobby. Following the presentation, Delta Division Director David Norris K5UZ of Arkansas gave an update on the league and introduced Vice-Director John Mark Robertson K5MJR of Louisiana.

Section Emergency Coordinator, Jim Snyder/AJ4NO, hosted an hour-long meeting for Tennessee ARES. Jim presented updates on the ARES program followed by comments from the ARRL TN Section Traffic Manager Harrell Davidson/WD4LAR and TN Phone Net Manager Alex Cochran/KB4LX.

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# 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.

1. 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.
2. Whenever possible, make the contact outside of your home station.
3. 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.
4. To encourage the use of all normally accessible bands by offering more points for contacts in certain bands.
5. 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.
6. This event promotes learning about the state of Tennessee by getting to know the counties that lie within its borders.
7. 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.

### ***Basic Scoring Formula***

***County Difficulty Value × Band/Mode Multiplier = Contact Score***

Example:

- Clay County (100 points) worked on 2m CW (×20)
- Score = 100 × 20
- **2,000 points**

### **Tennessee County Difficulty Values**

#### **100-Point Counties (Rare Counties)**

Clay Hancock Houston Lake Moore Perry Pickett Van Buren

#### **75-Point Counties**

Benton Bledsoe Cannon Chester Crockett Decatur Grundy Haywood Humphreys Jackson Johnson  
Lewis Meigs Polk Sequatchie Stewart Trousdale Unicoi Wayne

#### **50-Point Counties**

Campbell Carroll Cheatham Claiborne Cocke Dyer Fayette **Fentress** Franklin Giles Grainger  
Hardeman Hardin Henderson Henry Hickman Lauderdale Lawrence Lincoln Macon Marion Marshall  
McNairy Monroe **Morgan** Obion Overton Rhea **Scott** Smith Union Warren Weakley White

#### **40-Point Counties**

Anderson Bedford Coffee Cumberland Dickson Gibson Greene Hamblen Hawkins Jefferson Loudon  
McMinn Putnam Roane Robertson Tipton

#### **30-Point Counties**

Blount Bradley Madison Maury Montgomery Sevier Sullivan Sumner Washington Wilson

#### **20-Point Counties**

Hamilton Rutherford Williamson

#### **10-Point Counties**

Davidson Knox Shelby

### **Band & Mode Multipliers**

Band Voice CW Band Voice CW

160m x3 x4 12m x5 x6

80m x2 x3 10m x5 x6

40m x2 x3 6m x7 x15

20m x3 x4 2m Simplex x10 x20

17m x4 x5 220 Simplex x15 x25

15m x4 x5 440 Simplex x20 x25

### **Grand Division Certificates**

These awards are given out for participants “on their way” to the Worked All Counties award. Grand Division Certificates are sent as a printable PDF file via email.

**East Tennessee:** Complete all 33 East Tennessee counties.

**Middle Tennessee:** Complete all 41 Middle Tennessee counties.

**West Tennessee:** Complete all 21 West Tennessee counties.

### **Portable & Power Multipliers (Applied to the final score):**

#### **Category Multiplier**

Fixed Station ×1.0

Outdoor Portable ×1.25

Battery/Solar Only ×1.25

Outdoor Portable + Battery/Solar ×1.5  
QRP (≤5W CW / ≤10W Voice) Additional ×1.25

### **The "Volunteer State Grand Slam"**

The contest's highest achievement:

- Operate entirely from one home county.
- Complete contacts with all 95 Tennessee counties.
- At least 25% of contacts made outdoors.
- At least two contacts on VHF or higher (50 MC and above)
- At least one contact on CW and one on Phone

### **AWARDS**

Anyone contacting all 95 Tennessee counties will earn the VSWAC certificate. ARRL members will receive a printed certificate via US Mail; non ARRL members will receive an award certificate via e-mail as a printable PDF file. All licensed amateur radio operators are eligible to participate.

Amateur radio clubs within the Tennessee Section may participate operating under their club call sign.

At the conclusion of the contest period, awards will be given to the top 5 operators with the highest point score.

Grand Division Certificates will be issued as earned via e-mail as a printable PDF file.

All operators earning an award will be listed in the ARRL Tennessee Section Newsletter and on the TNARRL.ORG website.

Special Exception: If a county has no registered amateur radio operator living there, a rover or portable operator who operates from that county with the sole purpose of activating the county will automatically be credited for "a contact" to that county.

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## **From the Tennessee Section Traffic Manager**

This morning (June 24, 2026) a traffic event took place on the Tennessee Phone Net that would have been nearly impossible to deal with years ago. I began calling the net in 2009 and at that time today's event would have never been accomplished.

Will Adams/KN4ZPF, our RN5/DRN5 representative, brought a book of five pieces of traffic to the net this morning. He is well qualified to pick this traffic up and bring it to one of our several nets. Most likely Jim Goodrich/WA4VGZ took the traffic from the Region 5 hub and delivered it to Will/KN4ZPF. Alex Cochrane/KB4LX was NCS for this morning's net. In a few moments of time five different stations volunteered to take and deliver the traffic. Alex/KB4LX directed the net to handle the traffic excellently and efficiently. (Note: a "Book of Five" is the same message from an originating station to be delivered to five different recipients in five different locations) In years past we might have had two or three stations volunteer to take traffic, at a time when traffic handling

was nearly non-existent on the net. Thankfully that has changed! When I accepted the appointment as

Tennessee Section Traffic Manager from David Thomas/KM4NYI, I promised that we would be more traffic-oriented than we had been in the recent past and we did that very thing.

There are more contributors than I can possibly mention that helped us get to this level of traffic handling and delivering:

1. We have excellent managers in Alex/KB4LX managing our evening net and Sky/KO4DKI managing our morning net. We also have other nets and managers that do an outstanding job as well.
2. We have Net Controls that are/have trained for their different positions. Each one of them do an excellent job directing their respective nets. Both Alex/KB4LX and Sky/KO4DKI stay in touch with them for scheduling and or additional training that may be needed.
3. Sometime after we were beginning to improve our traffic situation a discussion took place at Stan's Restaurant in Columbia, TN, between John/WW3B and I about our traffic situation and he said that he thought he could write study material that might help and presented it to me for approval. He had experience in writing material for other applications in the past. In a few weeks he submitted material (30 pages in length), and I carefully read through it. It was exactly what was needed.
4. John/WW3B and I conducted and taught these Traffic Seminars on 3980 at the conclusion of Tuesday evening nets. The seminars lasted for about an hour, which we did this twice a year for two years, and now done once a year in February. With his expertise we have a traffic net that is now a model for others. With John's permission I distributed material to the ARRL for use where it might be useful.
5. We now have at least eighteen (18) operators who can handle traffic and do an excellent job.

There is a group Section Traffic Manager's email reflector for all of us to use and a quarterly zoom type meeting. You would be surprised at some of the traffic handling woes that are discussed: some states have little to no traffic ever taken off the various hubs out of the eleven that exist in our nation, others are backward in their sections of taking and delivering traffic. You would be surprised at the disappointments that take place, asking for advice or counsel on what other sections are doing.

The Tennessee Section of the ARRL is leading the way with our various traffic nets. Thanks to all and my apologies for anyone that I have failed to mention. It takes the entire net to get the above accomplished.

73/WD4LAR/Harrell Davidson  
Tennessee Section Traffic Manager  
wd4lar@gmail.com

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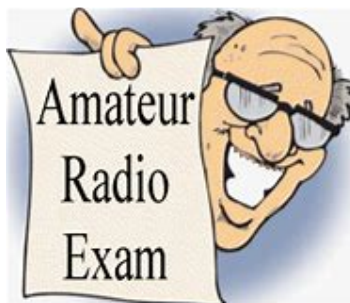
## Club Apparel



The club has ordered some extra t-shirts and currently has 1 medium and 3 large 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!

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## Local and In-Person Exams



***The technician question pool has changed as of July 1st.***

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

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!

**LICENSE EXAM**



Clare Rice KR4NBY was able to take the technician exam through the Anchorage ARC recently. Give them a warm welcome if you hear them on the Fentress County NET or another NET in our area. Welcome Clare to the ham family and please know we are cheering you on!

## Calendar of Events 2026



7/9/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet (Portable Station Show/Tell)
7/11/2026	Greater Nashville & Middle Tennessee Hamquest

7/12/2026	Harvest Ready Fest (Planning Session D. Pullins)
7/18/2026	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
8/23/2026	Cedars of Lebanon Hamfest – Lebanon, TN.
9/11/2026	Endurance Horse Ride
9/12/2026	Endurance Horse Ride
9/6/2026	Tennessee QSO Party
9/10/2026	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
9/16/2026	Start of TN W1AW/4 Event through 9-22-2026
9/19/2026	W4DXCC by SEDCO Pigeon Forge
9/19/2026	Big South Fork Haunting in the Hills Story Telling Festival
9/19/2026	Harvest Ready Fest (Fentress County D. Pullins)
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

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## The 13 Colonies Special Operating Event is Coming Soon. Are You Ready to Make a Clean Sweep?

Posted by [OnAllBands](#)

What better way to honor America's 250th anniversary than by making QSOs with stations in the original 13 colonies? We can't think of any at OnAllBands, so grab some sparklers, blast your preferred [Sousa march](#), put on your

favorite tri-cornered hat, and get ready for some serious star-spangled fun on the air!

**13 Colonies** (July 1-7, 2026) is the perfect fusion of history and ham radio. Celebrating its 18th year, this annual challenge has grown to become one of the most anticipated weeks on the amateur radio calendar. How anticipated? Last year, operators logged more than 264,000 QSOs in their quest to reach special event stations in Virginia, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Georgia.

In addition to breaking through large pileups to reach stations up the East Coast, operators will again have the challenge of making QSOs with three bonus stations: GB13COL (Great Britain), TM13COL (France), and WM3PEN (Philadelphia). Modes of operation (SSB, CW, RTTY, Digital, et. al.) are up to each colony/state and bonus station.

In honor of the 250th anniversary, there will be a specially designed certificate and unique QSL cards given out to participants.

[Read More \(Full Article\)](#)

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## Arcanum: ORI's New Open Source Antenna Simulation Engine

*By Michelle Thompson, W5NYV*

There is a title of software that almost every antenna modeler has heard of. NEC-2, the Numerical Electromagnetics Code, was released into the public domain by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1981. For decades it has been the engine underneath tools like EZNEC, 4NEC2, and xnec2c. It is the mathematical baseline against which antenna designs are validated. NEC-2 is the common language of the modeling community.

NEC-2 is a remarkable piece of work. However, curved antennas (helices, loops, spirals) are poorly modeled by its straight-segment approximation. Closely spaced wires behave badly. Thick conductors don't act quite right. These are not implementation bugs. They are fundamental properties of the mathematical approach NEC-2 uses.

The solution to these limitations exists. It is called the Conformal Method of Moments with Exact Kernel (CMoM). This approach replaces NEC-2's straight-segment approximations with curved segments. The NEC-2 kernel is replaced with the full cylindrical surface integral. This means that we get more accurate modeling for exactly the antenna types that matter most to ORI's work, such as ground station helices, compact loaded dipoles, loops, and arrays.

There is exactly one production software implementation of CMoM with exact kernel in the world. It is proprietary and the current price is \$1599 USD per year for the license.

Until now, that has been the end of the story for anyone who needed high-fidelity curved-wire antenna modeling without a commercial license. We decided to do something about that. Arcanum changes things.

[Read More \(Full Article\)](#)

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## [You Mean There's More to Digital Modes than Making Contacts on FT8?](#)

Posted by [Troy Blair, AC80W](#)

Over the past few years, FT8 has become very popular. How popular? To the point that if I ask a recently licensed ham if they operate on digital modes, the response is often, "You mean FT8?" The popularity has almost made FT8 and digital modes synonymous. No doubt, FT8 is great for simple contact-making or contesting.

Today I'm going to discuss some different digital modes that serve a deeper purpose than making contacts. We'll look at ways to pass messages, forms, and other data back and forth beyond simply a signal report. Don't get me wrong, you could put a message in the text fields of FT8 and pass other messages, but it is not a common practice.

In the event of a cell phone or widespread communication system failure, we like to brag that ham radio still works. And that is true, but do you know how to pass messages and traffic in both voice and digital? There is a system for that, and you need to be familiar with it if you expect to be able to use it in a real-world emergency.

[Read More \(Full Article\)](#)

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## [Ham Radio History: How RTTY Became the First Mainstream Digital Data Mode](#)

Posted by [Mark Haverstock, K8MSH](#)

Radio Teletype (RTTY) became a popular digital mode in amateur radio through a mix of postwar circumstances, technical curiosity, and a group of operators who looked at a 180-pound machine and thought, “This would look cool in my radio room.” Its growth reflects both the experimental spirit of ham radio and the fact that, sometimes, if it makes noise, prints letters, and connects to a transmitter, hams will find a way to make it communicate with the world.

### History of RTTY, Part 1

The origins of RTTY can be traced back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the invention of teleprinters, also known as teletypewriters. These machines sent typed text over wires using electrical signals encoded in standardized formats, such as the Baudot code. By the 1920s and 1930s, teleprinters were already well established in wireline communications, particularly for news agencies, government operations, and business.

[Read More \(Full Article\)](#)

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## [Youth Insights: Tips on Setting & Achieving Ham Radio Goals](#)

Posted by [Katie Campbell, KE8LQR](#)

Setting goals is a great way to track your progress in anything. From practicing an instrument to becoming a better cook or learning a new language, it helps you see how far you’ve come from where you started.

I've found that goal setting in amateur radio can be challenging due to the rather "unmeasurable" nature of some parts of the hobby, but through creativity, goals can be set for anything that you would like to accomplish.

Some areas of ham radio are easier to set goals for by nature. Contesting and DXing top this list, along with anything that can be measured numerically. Even then, it can be challenging to know where to start and what is a reasonable goal, especially if you've never contested before. Here are a few goals you can start with:

[Read More \(Full Article\)](#)

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## [Ham Radio Portable Operating Insights: Assembling a POTA Station on a Budget](#)

Posted by [John Myers, WG8X](#)

Let's talk about assembling a POTA station on a budget. This won't be an article about how to assemble a station using old computer parts or twigs and berries. Rather, it's about assessing what's actually needed to get you started in portable operations without breaking the bank.

It's true that a trip to [DX Engineering](#) can be therapeutic, but that's not always possible. So, we need to work with what we have available. As I've said in previous articles, the best POTA station is sometimes that station you already have. But what if you don't have a station that can work in the field? Well, let's assemble one.

[Read More \(Full Article\)](#)

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## [The Art of Breaking Through a Ham Radio Pileup](#)

Posted by [Mark Haverstock, K8MSH](#)

There are few sounds in amateur radio as thrilling—and intimidating—as a full-blown pileup. Usually, it's a rare DX station, a special event call sign, POTA activation, or a group operating from some tiny island that technically has more coconuts than residents. Suddenly, the frequency erupts into a chorus of call signs, phonetics, accents, and chatter.

To the uninitiated listener, a pileup can sound like chaos. But to experienced operators, it's a puzzle to solve, and breaking through can feel like winning the lottery. It isn't about brute force or luck; it's about timing, discipline, patience, courtesy, and a little psychological insight into human behavior.

A pileup is an example of a supply-and-demand problem. One station is available, and hundreds—sometimes thousands—want to work it. The instinctive response of many operators is to call louder, longer, and more often. This is understandable but completely wrong. Sure, power helps, antennas help, but technique matters far more. Breaking through a ham radio pileup combines technical knowledge, careful listening, and disciplined operating. The process rewards patience and skill, and each successful contact reinforces the value of good operating practice and respect for fellow radio enthusiasts

[Read More \(Full Article\)](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

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### 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.

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# July 2026

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## 06/11/2026 | "Football/Futbol On The Air - the 2026 World Soccer Tournament."

Jun 11-Jul 19, 0000Z-2359Z, W5C, Dallas, TX. Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society . 14.074. Certificate & QSL. Ron Franklin , 120 PR 22223, Whitney, TX 76692. [www.wc2026ses.org](http://www.wc2026ses.org), [info@wc2026ses.org](mailto:info@wc2026ses.org)

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## 06/12/2026 | World Soccer Tournament

Jun 12-Jul 19, 0000Z-2300Z, WM3PEN, Philadelphia, PA. Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. 14.276 7.276. QSL. Bob Josuweit, 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136. <https://www.qrz.com/db/WM3PEN>

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## 06/25/2026 | America250 DARC

Jun 25-Jul 8, 0000Z-2359Z, KM0DRC, Doniphan, MO. Doniphan ARC. 28.500. QSL. Kent Wilfong, 209 Locust St, Doniphan, MO 63935. [doniphanarc@outlook.com](mailto:doniphanarc@outlook.com)

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## 06/28/2026 | Trail to Eagle (TTE)

Jun 28-Jul 3, 0100Z-0400Z, K2BSA/8, Metamora, MI. Boy Scouts of America/Michigan CrossRoads Council . 14.330 7.270 3.840. QSL. GCARC, P.O. Box 482, Garden City, MI 48136-0482. <https://michiganscouting.org/camping/trail-to-eagle>

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## 07/01/2026 | 13 Coloines Special Event

Jul 1-Jul 7, 1300Z-0400Z, K2J, Louisburg, NC. 13 Coloines Special Event . 14.250 7.185. QSL. Team K2J QSL Chuck Moss, 1140 Styers Mill Rd, Yadkinville, NC 27055. [k2j1776@gmail.com](mailto:k2j1776@gmail.com)

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## 07/01/2026 | 13 Colonies

Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z, K2D, Trumbull, CT. 13 Colonies. 14.074. QSL. Conrad Trautmann, N2YCH, 971 Daniels Farm Road, Trumbull, CT 06611. <https://www.qrz.com/db/K2D>

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## 07/01/2026 | 13 Colonies Massachusetts

Jul 1-Jul 7, 0000Z-2359Z, K2H, Longmeadow, MA. 13 Colonies. 14.270 21.320 28.370 14.045. QSL. Larry Krainson - W1AST, 100 Kenmore Dr, Longmeadow, MA 01106-2759. <https://13colonies.us>

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## 07/01/2026 | 13 Colonies SES Georgia

Jul 1-Jul 6, 1300Z-0400Z, K2G, Powder Springs, GA. 13 Colonies SES. 14.223. Certificate. Nathan H. Wood, P.O. Box 2383, Powder Springs, GA 30127. <https://www.13colonies.us>

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## 07/01/2026 | 13 Colonies Special Event

Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z, N2C, Johnston, RI. 13 Colonies Special Event. 14.220 14.230 14.240 14.250. Certificate. 13 Colonies Special Event, 1 Ludlow Street, Johnston, RI 02919. <https://13colonies.us>

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## 07/01/2026 | 13 Colonies Special Event

Jul 1-Jul 8, 1400Z-0400Z, WM3PEN, Philadelphia, PA. Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. 14.276 7.276. QSL. Bob Josuweit, 3341 Sheffield Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19136. [wm3pen.org](http://wm3pen.org)

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## 07/01/2026 | 13 Colonies Special Event K2C (RI)

Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z, K2C, Johnston, RI. 13 Colonies Special Event. 14.230 14.240 14.250 14.260. Certificate. 13 Colonies Special Event K2C, 1 Ludlow Street, Johnston, RI 02919. More information on QRZ - K2C <https://www.13colonies.us>

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## 07/01/2026 | 13 Colonies, New York

Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z, K2A, Various, NY. 13 Colonies Special Event. 14.278 14.074 7.226. QSL. Ken Goetz, N2SQW, 74 Jerome Ave, Cairo, NY 12413. [13Colonies.US](http://13Colonies.US)

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## 07/01/2026 | Thirteen Colonies Special Event - New Hampshire

Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z, K2K, Manchester, NH. W1UAA. 7.276 14.276. Certificate & QSL. Eugene Glukhov, 75 Canal St, Apt 353, Bedford, NH 03110. <https://hamlog.online/13colonies>

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## 07/01/2026 | Thirteen Colonies Special Event - South Carolina

Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z, K2L, FORT MILL, SC. KG9V. 7.100. Certificate. K2L Special Event Station, P.O. Box 733, Fort Mill, SC 29715. [www.qrz.com/db/k2l](http://www.qrz.com/db/k2l)

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## 07/02/2026 | K3H Special Event Station - Eastern PA Homestead Festival

Jul 2-Jul 5, 1300Z-2200Z, K3H, Kutztown, PA. East Penn ARC/Education Alliance for Amateur Radio . 7074. Certificate. Walter J Skavinsky, 1574 Layfield Road, Pennsburg, PA 18073-1702. [walter.skavinsky@radiostemalliance.org](mailto:walter.skavinsky@radiostemalliance.org)

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## 07/04/2026 | USS Orleck Amateur Radio Society (OARS) July4th/USA 250 Event

Jul 4, 1300Z-2100Z, WJ4DD, Jacksonville, FL. USS Orleck Amateur Radio Society (OARS). 14.250 14.320 7.190 7.250. QSL. Kenneth Krull, 6143 Winding Bridge Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32277.

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## 07/04/2026 | 250 Years as a Country

Jul 4-Jul 5, 1200Z-0000Z, AL7NS, Lakeland, GA. N4LAL. 14.266 21.278 28.450 7.028. QSL. American Legion Milltown Post 336, PO Box 7, Lakeland, GA 31635. The American Legion Milltown Post Amateur Radio Club will be holding a Special Event station to commemorate the 250 years of freedom.

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## 07/04/2026 | Colonial Williamsburg Special Event

Jul 11, 1400Z-2000Z, K4RC, Williamsburg, VA. Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club. 7.265 14.265. Certificate. Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1470, Williamsburg, VA 23187. <https://www.k4rc.net>

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## 07/04/2026 | Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library

### Dedication

Jul 1-Jul 8, 1500Z-0000Z, K0ND, Medora, ND. Theodore Roosevelt Amateur Radio Club. 28.430 21.375 14.340. QSL. Theodore Roosevelt ARC, PO Box 1854, Dickinson, ND 58602-1854.

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## 07/05/2026 | 250 Years of America!

Jul 5, 1700Z-2100Z, WE7GV, Sahuarita, AZ. Green Valley Amateur Radio Club. 14.242 14.246 14.248. Certificate & QSL. Tom Lang K7VOA, 1085 W EL TORO RD, 1085 W EL TORO RD, Sahuarita, AZ 85629.

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## 07/11/2026 | Independence Day (07-04-1776)

Jul 11, 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship CV-41 COMEDTRA NI6IW. 7.250 14.320 14.070 PSK31 DStar on PAPA System Repeaters. QSL. USS Midway Ship Museum CV-41 COMEDTRA NI6IW, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.

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## 07/13/2026 | Warrick County 4H fair

Jul 13-Jul 19, 1800Z-0100Z, W4H, Boonville, IN. Warrick Auxcomm. 14.320 SSB. QSL. Steve Connaughton, 7677 Jenner Rd, Chandler, IN 47610. Celebrating the Warrick County, Indiana, 4H fair. Additional frequencies and modes may be used depending on band and weather conditions. Operating times will be mostly in the late afternoons and evenings, Central Time.  
<https://warrickauxcomm.org>

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## 07/17/2026 | W3A Commemoration of Apollo 11 Live TV From the Moon that Allowed the World to See Mankind's First Steps on the Lunar Surface

Jul 17-Jul 21, 1300Z-2200Z, K3NEM, Middle River, MD. Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum (ARCNEM). 14.269 14.069 7.269 7.069. Certificate & QSL. ARCNEM, c/o Fred Heath AI3Z, 202 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park, MD 21146-1368. [WW-2.us](http://WW-2.us)

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## 07/18/2026 | CEDAR POINT LIGHTHOUSE ON THE AIR

Jul 18, 1000Z-1400Z, K3HKI, Lexington Park, MD. St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association.  
7.205 Mhz 14.230 Mhz 21.300 Mhz 28.335 Mhz. QSL. SMCARA, P.O. Box 364, California, MD 20619.

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## 07/18/2026 | NS Savannah Launch Anniversary

Jul 18, 1330Z-2100Z, K3S, Port of Baltimore. Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. 7,14,18,21,28 MHz. QSL.  
Ulis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Road, Odenton, MD 21113. [qrz.com/db/k3s](http://qrz.com/db/k3s)

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## 07/20/2026 | EAA Airventure Worlds Largest Airshow

Jul 20-Jul 25, 1300Z-2000Z, W9ZL, Oshkosh, WI. Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club. 7.250 14.275  
50.150. Certificate. FCARC W9ZL special event station, PO Box 2346, Appleton, WI 54912.  
[FCARC.club](http://FCARC.club)

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## 07/20/2026 | The Brickyard 400 - Race Three

Jul 20-Jul 26, 0000Z-2359Z, W9IMS, Indianapolis, IN. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC. 3.840  
7.245 14.245 18.140. Certificate & QSL. Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, P.O.  
BOX 30954, Indianapolis, IN 46230. <https://w9ims.org>

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## 07/25/2026 | MINNESOTA MOSQUITO CHALLENGE

Jul 25, 1300Z-2300Z, W0ALX, Alexandria, MN. RUNESTONE ARC. 21.270 14.230 7.190. Certificate.  
WILLIAM KLUNDT, 509 PINE ST SO, Sauk Centre, MN 56378.

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## 07/30/2026 | Carnation Festival Special Event

Jul 30-Aug 9, 0000Z-2359Z, W8LKY, Alliance, OH. Alliance Amateur Radio Club. 7050 7220 14050  
14250. Certificate. Alliance Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 94, Maximo, OH 44650.  
<https://www.w8lky.org/activities/special-event-operations>

To learn more about and to search even more special event stations click the adjacent link:

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