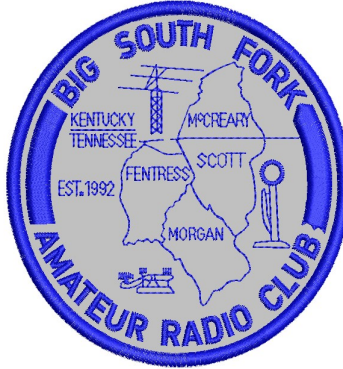


From: Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club <w4bsf@bsfarc.org>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2026 2:30 PM
To: Bill Green
Subject: The Modulator August- 2026

[View this in your browser.](#)



Volume 34 Number 8- August 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.

Club Bi-Monthly Training Session

September 10, 2026

Our training will be held on September 10th - 2026 at 7:00pm Eastern at Roane State Community College in Huntsville TN. We need a presenter or a topic.

Club Bi-Monthly Meeting

October 8, 2026

Our next regular club meeting will be held on October 8th - 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.

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!

MODULATOR
NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

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

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.**



If this sounds like fun to you it was! Your next chance to be W1AW/4 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:

9-2-2026: Colorado
 9-2-2026: North Carolina
 9-9-2026: Kentucky
 9-9-2026: North Dakota
 9-16-2026: New Hampshire
 9-16-2026: Illinois
9-16-2026: Tennessee
 9-23-2026: Vermont
 10-7-2026: Connecticut
 10-7-2026: New Mexico
 10-7-2026: South Dakota
 10-14-2026: California
 10-14-2026: Georgia
 10-14-2026: Missouri
 10-21-2026: Arkansas
 10-21-2026: Alaska
 10-21-2026: Wisconsin

10-28-2026: Michigan

10-28-2026: Nevada

Big South Fork NRRRA Haunting In the Hills Storytelling Festival

September 19, 2026 All Day @ Bandy Creek in BSF NRRRA



Once again, we have been invited back to the park to showcase amateur radio and the important roles it plays. Come hear world-renowned storytellers, catch live music, take part in hands-on craft classes, and spend the day enjoying one of the region's most beautiful outdoor settings. It is a great chance for us to activate W4BSF as a POTA station at US-0686.

We are looking for guest operators (no license required) as we will have a control operator and all the equipment to get you on the air. We will be close to the Bandy Creek visitors center (and the bathrooms). Let Bill KF4TY know if you can help out this year as we need some volunteers!



HARVEST
READY FEST

FREE!

5th
Annual

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 10A-3P

FENTRESS CO. FAIR GROUNDS
641 FAIRGROUNDS RD, JAMESTOWN, TN

- ✓ FREE Food!
- ✓ Prize Drawings!!
- ✓ INFO Booths
- ✓ Medicinal Herbs
- ✓ Food & Water Storage
- ✓ And Lots More...

Various Speakers on preparedness
topics throughout the day

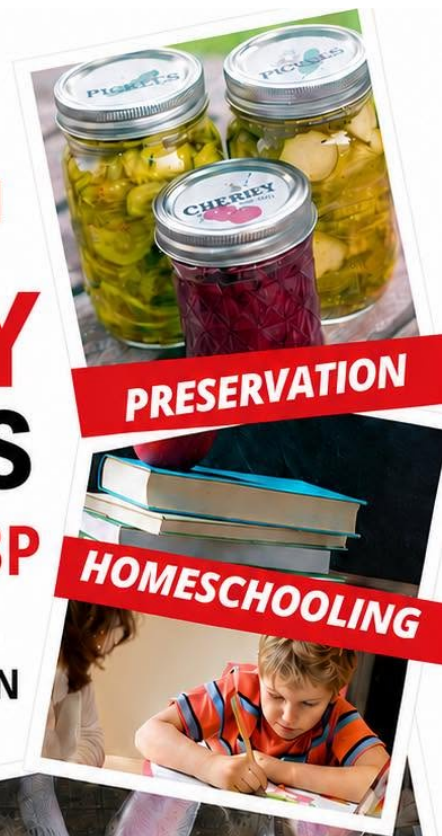
MORE INFO CONTACT: 931-319-9986
or 931-319-9843



EMERGENCY
GO-BAG
MUST HAVE



HAM RADIO COMMS

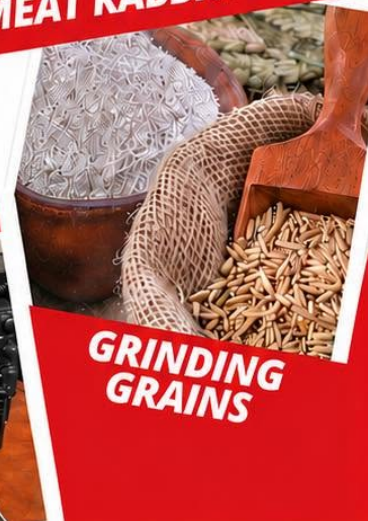


PRESERVATION

HOMESCHOOLING



MEAT RABBITRY



GRINDING
GRAINS

Come out and learn more about emergency preparedness. Dave W9DXP and Joe N4YLA will be showing how ham radio can be used for emergency communications. We have also volunteered to activate W1AW/4 for Tennessee worked all states that day and hope to have many contacts.



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 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**

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 100 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.

State QSO Parties



September 6-7: Tennessee

September 12-13: Colorado

September 19-20: Iowa

September 19-20: New Jersey

September 19-20: New Hampshire

September 19-20: Washington

September 20: Texas

October 3-4: California

October 10-11: Arizona

October 10-11: Pennsylvania

October 10-11: South Dakota

October 18-19: Illinois

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



A big shout out to Joe N4YLA for his 4th kilo having made more than 4,000 contacts from US-0686 Big South Fork and for his 2nd kilo (more than 2,000 contacts) at US-5500 Scott State Forest. Dave W9DXP achieved his 2nd kilo at US-7620 Skinner Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Dave also crossed over the 10,000 QSO boundary as an activator and now has more than 200 activations. Our recently minted general class Stephen KR4JIQ completed his first activation at US-0686 as part of a 5-park rove earning him a Warthog award. Stephen now has more than 200 parks hunted in a very short time. Kelly Ki4JAV and Ricky W4NRT added two more states (Alabama and Florida) to their log books. Bill KF4TY activated his 77th POTA park in Tennessee and has only 199 to go. Bill recently hunted is 3,000th park and now has over 150 parks activated. Jamie KQ4ZIP has been working for the National Park Service at Valles Caldera National Conservation Area (US-0678) in NM and made contact with some club members. He is number 3 on the park leaders for number of contacts and number 1 for the number of activations. His has been busy at US-417 Sante Fe National Forest where he is working on his kilo (currently more than 800 in the log book). Dave K4IDB and Buddy W7VSF remain active hunters as well.

POTA while not for everyone is a great way of overcoming microphone fright if only hunting. For those that venture out into the field POTA will test your operating skills under a wide variety of conditions. Want to learn more or get started just let one of us know!

LOCAL HAM FESTS 2026



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>

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. 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 if you are interested in emergency communications.

ARES

Skywarn Recognition Day Saturday December 5 , 2026



Skywarn Recognition Day 2026 will be observed on Saturday, December 5, honoring volunteer amateur radio operators who assist the National Weather Service during severe weather.

The first Skywarn Recognition Day was held in 1999, created jointly by the NWS and ARRL to formally recognize the importance of amateur radio in severe weather reporting. Since then, it has become a nationwide event, highlighting the vital role of human observation alongside modern radar and satellite technology.

We have an email out to the NWS at Morristown to see if we can help activate their special event station this year. Let us know if you are interested in helping out.



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



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.

The ARRL Year of the Club Website Contest drew more than 80 entries from ARRL-affiliated amateur radio clubs all over the country. While we did not place our web site is still one of the best but we are a bit biased.

The judges evaluated entries for layout, content, and accessibility, and are pleased to congratulate the following winners.

First Place

Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club, W3ACH
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
<https://www.w3ach.com/>

Caleb C. Jacobs, KC3VPB, Webmaster

Second Place

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club, W6EK

Auburn, California

<https://www.w6ek.org/>

Mike "Smitty" Smith, WB1G, Webmaster

Third Place

Ventura County Amateur Radio Club, K6MEP

Ventura, California

<https://k6mep.org/>

David Schmidt, AI6VX, Webmaster

The ARRL Year of the Club Newsletter Contest drew more than 80 entries from ARRL-affiliated amateur radio clubs all over the country. The judges divided the entries into three categories: Large Clubs (more than 120 members), Medium Clubs (60-120 members), and Small Clubs (fewer than 60 members). Entries were evaluated for the navigability and attractiveness of their layout, as well as the variety and quality of their content. During the evaluation, two entries emerged as doing an outstanding job of serving a specialized audience, leading the judges to create a Special Commendation for those entries.

Our newsletter was not in the running as we missed publishing an issue due to our editors vacation last year.

LARGE CLUBS

First Place

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club, W2MMD

Pitman, New Jersey

CrossTalk

Jeffrey Garth, WB2ZBN, Editor

Second Place

Long Island CW Club, W2LCW

Global

Long Island CW Club Newsletter

Richard Spohn, WB2GXM, Editor

MEDIUM CLUBS

First Place

Ozaukee Radio Club, W9CQO

Grafton, Wisconsin

The Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter
William Shadid, W9MXQ, Editor

Second Place

East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association, W2EGB
East Greenbush, New York

Sidebands

Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ, Editor

Honorable Mention

Providence Radio Association, W1OP
Johnston, Rhode Island

The Old Professor

Thomas Greenwood, W1ER, Editor

SMALL CLUBS

First Place

Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Radio Association, W2NYW
Greater Peekskill/Cortlandt Area, New York

PCARA Update

Malcolm G. Pritchard, NM9J, Editor

Second Place

Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club, W6BA
Morongo Basin, California

MBARC Beacon

Aaron Chesney, KM6IAU, Editor

SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Best Newsletter for a Specialized Audience: Families and Youth

Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society, W1STR
Natick, Massachusetts

Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society News

Robert F. Phinney, K5TEC, Editor

Best Newsletter for a Specialized Audience: Global Audience

Young Ladies' Radio League, K4LMB
Global

YL Harmonics

Kathleen Houlihan, WA5DUC, Editor

From the Tennessee Section Traffic Manager

July 2026 (WD4LAR TN - STM)

The most recent "ARRL Tennessee Section Newsletter – June 2026", provided a discussion about the Tennessee Phone Net and the significant role that the Phone Net plays in Message Traffic handling. I mentioned that we have many net control stations (NCS) that manage the Phone Net. We also have ham operator participants checking in from almost, if not all 95 Tennessee counties. We discussed having conducted training to educate and/or improve Tennessee's ham operators' abilities to pass message traffic within and outside of Tennessee.

This month, we recognize another group of devoted hams in the state of Tennessee, The TN CW Net which complements the mission of the Phone Net. In the worst of times, conditions, and emergencies, this group of operators can play a major role in Tennessee to get messages through. CW is more intelligible under low signal to noise (i.e. "weak signal") conditions than SSB signals, even using phonetics.

CURRENT TN CW Net Times and Frequency

The TN CW Net operates Monday through Friday nights at 0000Z (7:00 P.M. CST / 8:00 P.M. EST) except for holidays all year long (DST change). The frequency is 3.562 MHz (occasional shifts to avoid QRM). This frequency allows all operators from Technician Class (allowed CW privileges 3.525 MHz to 3.600 MHz) through Extra Class to participate.

Bruce Smith, AC4G is our TN CW Net manager and Bob McGraw, K4TAX, Assistant TN CW Net Manager invite you to be a part of the "dits" and "DAHs" on 3.562 MHz every weekday evening by participating in the TN CW Net.

TN CW Net Involvement

Bruce, AC4G, the TN CW Net Manger, notes that Wayne, W4TZB has provided a web page <https://w4tzb.net/cwnet.html> with information to help ham operators listen to, understand the net procedures, and hopefully check into the TN CW Net. His web page provides tips about learning and improving Morse Code skills and how to listen to the net even if you do not know Morse Code. Wayne's page includes ARRL Q-Signals for CW Net use; a list of CW abbreviations; and more information to aid any ham wanting to learn and operate using Morse Code. The information on Wayne's web page should help any ham willing to learn Morse Code to participate in any CW Net. Wayne likes to say, "If you don't know Morse Code then you don't know 'Dit'."

Crisp & Technical

The net begins with: "DAH-DAH-di-DAH"; "di-di-dit"; and "DAH".

This is the familiar "QST", the universal "Calling All Radio Amateurs" Q-Signal sent by the Net Control Station (NCS) is a ritual that links today's operators with those who first

built CW's reputation for reliability. The opening call of "QST" is more than a signal — it's a handshake across time, connecting generations of Morse code enthusiasts.

Brief TN CW Net History

The Tennessee CW Net was active in the 1950's with both the Tennessee HIGH Speed CW Net and the Tennessee SLOW Speed CW Net. While there have been many Net Control Stations (NCS) over the years, Cactus, K4YMB is to be commended for almost single-handedly keeping the net operating during the 1990s by serving as NCS several nights each week. Today, we have a new line-up of dedicated NCS operators who proudly continue the tradition.

Bob, K4TAX who was licensed in 1959 states that, "the Net was active then". AC4G remembers the first signals he sent via Morse Code to check-in to the TN Slow Speed Net back in 1978 as a student at Tennessee Tech University sending and receiving Morse code at approximately 7 WPM as a Novice Licensee. Wayne, W4TZB, licensed in 1951 recalls his father driving him to hand-deliver radiograms since Wayne was not yet old enough to drive. Not everyone in those days had a telephone, and Longdistance telephone calls were considered relatively expensive, and many radiograms had significant content about travel, health, welfare, births, deaths, etc.

Some operators were sending faster than 20 words per minute (WPM), but there was also a Tennessee Slow Speed Net which averaged around 5 to 10 WPM, and for a while, one night per week was designated Slow Speed. In about 2006, both nets were combined. Today, the TN CW Net handles all levels of Morse Code speeds to allow any ham to check-in to the net

Each NCS adjusts their speed to accommodate the speed of any CW operator, so you are welcome to QNI (check into net) at any speed.

Today the National Traffic System (NTS) has many CW operators across the USA who continue relay radiograms from station to station in a manner similar to that which the American Radio RELAY League used when it was founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim, who found that messages could be sent more reliably over long distances if relay stations were organized. It was a radio version of the Pony Express with each station a new rider.

A special thanks to all who participated in our 3rd quarter S E T on 8/5/2006. Andy-KY4DF NCS did a fantastic job calling the TN3980 Phone NET. His calling was orderly, understandable and sufficient in every way imaginable. Thanks Andy!

He gathered and counted 326 bits of information that he was given. 165 souls, ARL One 67. Total participating Off Grid stations 83. A breakdown in power follows.

Stations reporting 100W: 20

Stations reporting 99-50W: 15

Stations reporting 49-11W: 20
Stations reporting 10 to 5W: 12
Stations reporting 1W: 1
Stations reporting 1/2W: 1
Stations reporting Battery: 62
Stations reporting Battery with Solar: 3
Stations reporting Generator: 5
Mobile Stations: 3
Portable Stations: 2

Our SETs have come a long long way since the first one now several years ago. Harrel WD4LAR called 8 quarters to get us started and he admitted he was flying by the seat of his pants but learning. All the NCSs have taken this to a much higher level than in the beginning. We will show much more improvement as we go forward.



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 $\times 1.0$

Outdoor Portable $\times 1.25$

Battery/Solar Only $\times 1.25$

Outdoor Portable + Battery/Solar ×1.5
QRP ($\leq 5\text{W}$ CW / $\leq 10\text{W}$ 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.

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. We are expecting a price increase for new orders but the shirts still should be under \$10.00. Show your support for BSFARC and Rugby Screen Printers by pre-ordering yours today! Once we have a couple of pre-orders we will place an order plus some for our stock.

Local and In-Person Exams



Let us know if you are ready for the exam at 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

Calendar of Events 2026



9/11/2026	Endurance Horse Ride NO BSFARC involvement
9/12/2026	Endurance Horse Ride NO BSFARC involvement
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)
9/26/2026	Middle Tennessee Co-op Event Greenbrier TN
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
10/17/2026	Short Mountain Repeater Club Hamfest - Wartrace TN
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

A Young Hams Guide to Amateur Radio Scholarships

Posted by [Katie Campbell, KE8LQR](#)

As one becomes involved with amateur radio, it becomes apparent that “community” and “support” are two of the most important values of the hobby. These are closely followed by teaching and learning. With these being the key values of amateur radio, it’s only natural that various organizations within the hobby offer scholarships to young hams pursuing higher education.

With scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$25,000, the generosity of amateur radio clubs and groups is virtually unmatched by any other hobby. Providing scholarships seems to be the perfect way to give back to the community.

If you’re a young ham heading to college soon, or even just considering it, looking into the various scholarships in the amateur radio community is well worth your time. Just meeting the first requirement— having an amateur radio license—narrows the pool of applicants immensely. This gives you a better chance of being selected for an amateur radio scholarship compared to the random scholarships that you find on websites where thousands of your peers are applying!

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

N6OL Powerline QRM Monitor

By Nicklas Johnson, N6OL

A tool for ham radio operators to continuously monitor, log, and publish measurements of powerline interference (QRM). It records audio from a radio receiver, detects the characteristic pulse-train signature of powerline noise, and produces time-series plots and time-of-day probability charts that are automatically uploaded to a web server.

Useful for documenting interference patterns when working with a power company to locate and fix a problem source, or simply for understanding when the noise is worst.

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

Ham Radio: The Hobby of a Thousand Hobbies

Posted by [Mark Haverstock, K8MSH](#)

At first glance, amateur radio seems simple: talk into a microphone, press a key, make contacts. That's the doorway. But once people step through it, many discover that operating the radio is only one part of what keeps them interested.

Ham radio is often called the hobby of a thousand hobbies because it's not really one activity—it's a sprawling group of interests that happen to share a common RF connection. You can enter ham radio through antennas and accidentally discover electronics, satellites, weather, emergency communications, contesting, digital modes, geography, propagation science, and enough other specialized interests to make Comic-Con pale by comparison

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

How Ham Radio Teaches Young People to Communicate

Posted by [Katie Campbell, KE8LQR](#)

When I got my amateur radio license at ten years old, communication was still very much a weak spot for me. I was terrified of having a speaking role in the school play, and presentations in front of my class still made me exceptionally nervous.

Now, I really enjoy public speaking, and I have gotten significantly better at it—almost entirely thanks to amateur radio. The hobby has taught me how to communicate articulately and precisely, something that no other extracurricular activity or experience has done.

While I've overcome most of my challenges with communication, many of my peers still have issues with good communication skills. As a result, how young people communicate is a frequently discussed topic among older generations. I've heard these questions and similar examples countless times:

- “How do young people communicate?”
- “The Snapchat photos they send each other—do those count as communication?”
- “Do young people communicate or do they just sit on their phones?”

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

Do Nearby Metal & Trees Significantly Affect Antennas?

Posted by [Mark Haverstock, K8MSH](#)

Antennas may look simple—just a piece of metal in the air—but they are surprisingly sensitive to their surroundings. Nearby metal objects and trees can dramatically affect how an antenna performs, sometimes improving it, sometimes hurting it, and occasionally turning a perfectly good antenna into an expensive yard ornament.

Radio waves don’t exist in isolation. Every antenna interacts with its environment. Houses, gutters, vehicles, power lines, aluminum siding, steel towers, wet leaves, and even your neighbor’s rusty trampoline all become part of the antenna’s “neighborhood.” Whether those neighbors are helpful or troublesome depends on distance, size, conductivity, frequency, and a bit of radio magic that sometimes seems suspiciously close to black magic.

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

How to Navigate Being a YL in Amateur Radio

Posted by [Katie Campbell, KE8LQR](#)

When I earned my ham license at ten years old, my dad didn’t have his yet. A few weeks after passing my Technician exam, we attended a SKYWARN training session together. While we were signing in, I requested the amateur radio operator and non-amateur radio operator forms. The registration manager handed the “ham” sheet to my father and the other to me—then looked astonished when we

switched them.

In similar fashion, whenever we attend hamfests together, I frequently get asked how my dad managed to convince me to come along and spend my Saturday here. In an unexpected turn of events, he was, in fact, the one in need of convincing—but not a lot of it. (My parents are both shockingly patient and supportive of my seemingly odd hobby.)

Many YLs have had similar experiences. People assume they're only attending an amateur radio event because they wanted to come along with their boyfriend, husband, dad, or whichever male family member or acquaintance accompanied them. This gets frustrating after a while. I've been asked more than once if I "wanted to get my callsign now," even though I was wearing a callsign badge or was talking about what I like to do in the hobby.

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

End-Fed Antennas for Amateur Radio: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly

Few antennas in amateur radio stir up as much debate as the end-fed antenna. Mention one at a club meeting, and you will immediately hear wildly different opinions. One ham will praise it as the greatest invention since coaxial cable. Another will claim it turns every appliance in the house into a touch lamp. A third will mutter, "common-mode current," shake their head, and walk away.

The truth, as usual in ham radio, lies somewhere between engineering and sorcery.

End-fed antennas have become popular because they solve a problem nearly every amateur eventually faces: How do you get an HF antenna on the air when you do not have enough space, towers, trees, or cooperative neighbors? The appeal is obvious. One wire. One support point. Easy installation.

In other words, the end-fed antenna is the radio equivalent of duct tape. It may not be elegant, but it gets the job done.

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.

September 2026

08/29/2026 | Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Special Event Station

Aug 29-Sep 12, 1300Z-2300Z, K9A, Auburn, IN. Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association. 7.180MHz 14.250MHz 28.350 MHz. Certificate & QSL. Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 145, Auburn, In 46706-0145. W9OU@W9OU.ORG

08/29/2026 | Buhl Farm Park Celebration

Aug 29-Sep 7, 0000Z-2359Z, W3LIF, Hermitage, PA. Mercer County Amateur Radio Club. 7.185 7.074. QSL. Mercer County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 996, Sharon, PA 16146. Mercer County Amateur Radio Club is celebrating BUHL DAY, the 111th Anniversary of Buhl Farm Park, which covers 300 acres donated to the Shenango Valley community by Frank Buhl a local industrialist, for the use and recreation purposes. Check the www.w3lif.org webpage for scheduled times of W3B

operation or the QRZ website for W3B for more information. As conditions permit you will find operators at various times on from August 29 to all day on September 7, 2026 www.w3lif.org

08/29/2026 | Commemoration of the end of WWII

Aug 29-Sep 2, 0000Z-2359Z, W5J, Meridian, MS. Meridian Amateur Radio Club (MS). 14.230. QSL. Larry Anderson, 6674 Highway 19 N., Meridian, MS 39305. Commemoration of the End of WWII, 81 Years Ago. 80-10 meters, SSB, CW, FT8 Very nice picture QSL Card available <https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/w5j-the-vj-day-special-event-commemoration-of-the-end-of-wwii.992749>

09/03/2026 | Midwest Old Threshers Reunion Special Event

Sep 3-Sep 6, 1400Z-1800Z, W0ARC, Washington, IA. Washington Area Amateur Radio Club, Inc. 28.400 21.300 14.300 7.200. QSL. Mark Lukins-AB0DX, 802 N. Second Ave, Washington, IA 52353. Yearly event held at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, attracts visitors from all over the world. Collections of antique and steam powered equipment are displayed and operated. Each year well known entertainers are on stage providing top notch shows. We are located on the grounds with our communication trailer across from the steam powered carousel. Hope to work you or see you at the event! www.waarc.net

09/05/2026 | Return to Paradise #48

Sep 5-Sep 7, 1600Z-1600Z, K7RDG, Sierra Vista, AZ. Cochise Amateur Radio Assoc.. 3890 7.225 14.070 14.285. Certificate. Cochise ARA, PO Box 1855, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1855. Return to Paradise 48th Anniversary, Voice, FT8/FT4/JS8 www.k7rdg.org

09/05/2026 | Route 66 100th Anniversary

Sep 5-Sep 6, 1700Z-2100Z, W9SPI, Springfield, IL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club. 7180 khz 14250 khz 21325 khz 28400 khz. QSL. Sangamon Valley Radio Club, PO Box 9162, Springfield, IL 62791-9162. SASE to: Sangamon Valley Radio Club Box 9162, Springfield IL 62791-9162. Primary operating hours from 17utc to 21utc both days. <https://svrc.org>

09/05/2026 | W2GSB POTA ACTIVATION

Sep 5, 1200Z-2000Z, W2GSB, Babylon, NY. GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. 14.245 28.500 21.325 7.275. QSL. GSBARC POTA STATION , 200 East Sunrise Hwy, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. WWW.GSBARC.ORG

09/05/2026 | W8OG Special Event 250th Birthday Celebration

Sep 5, 1300Z-2100Z, W8OG, Springfield, Oh. Clark County Armature Radio Association. 3.900 7.280 14.280 28.600. QSL. W8OG Special Event, w8og.org, Springfield, OH 45501-2911. When requesting a QSL card please enclose a self addressed postage paid envelope. W8OG.ORG

09/09/2026 | FRVA-ARC Fall Rally

Sep 9-Sep 11, 0000Z-2359Z, WE4RV, Pleasant Hill, TN. FRVA Amateur Radio Chapter. 14.074 14.3075 21.074 21.277. QSL. Doug Borko, PO BOX 368 , Pleasant Hill, TN 38578. PO BOX 368 Pleasant Hill, TN 38578 USA www.frvaarc.com

09/09/2026 | Handiham Radio Camp

Sep 9-Sep 16, 0000Z-2359Z, W0ZSW, Minneapolis, MN. Handiham Radio Club. 28.050 CW & 28.350 SSB 21.050 CW & 21.350 SSB 14.050 CW & 14.250 SSB 7.050 CW & 7.200 SSB. QSL. Handiham Program, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Mail Route 78446, Minneapolis, MN 55422. In honor of the Handiham Program's 59th Anniversary, the Handiham Radio Club and the Handiham Radio Club of Minnesota are sponsoring a QSO party during the 2026 Radio Camp. The object is for Handiham members to work as many stations as possible during the week of camp. We also will use this opportunity to promote and give more details about the Handiham Program and the Handiham Radio Clubs for those who are interested. We will be active on all amateur bands and modes to make contacts including digital and VOIP modes. The exchange is simply name and state, province, or country. Stations may be using their own call signs in addition to the club and special event call signs, W0ZSW, W0EQO, and W0H. Please listen for stations calling CQ Radio Camp, and give us a contact! Sponsored by the Handiham Radio Club & Handiham Radio Club of Minnesota
<https://handiham.org>

09/09/2026 | SES W0H - Handihams Radio Camp

Sep 9-Sep 16, 0000Z-2359Z, W0H, Minneapolis, MN. Handihams. 7.200 14.250 28.350 14.050. QSL. Handiham Program, 3915 Golden Valley Rd., MR 78446, Minneapolis, MN 55422-4249.
fred@wb4aej.com

09/11/2026 | Pentagon 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001

Sep 11-Sep 12, 1200Z-0100Z, K4AF, Fairfax, VA. K4AF. 20 meters 40 Meters. QSL. K4AF, P. O . Box 2322, Arlington, VA 22202. k4AF.org

09/11/2026 | The RC Jamborie Weekend

Sep 11-Sep 13, 1300Z-1700Z, W2A, Red Hook, NY. OMARC. 7 14 21 28. QSL. Scott Miller, 141 Bruynswick Road, New Paltz, NY 12561.

09/12/2026 | 60th Anniversary Special Event Station

Sep 12, 1500Z-2100Z, WA0CJU, Waseca, MN. Viking Amateur Radio Society. 14.074 14.250 7.074 7.225. Certificate & QSL. Kevin F Dirks, 1705 Clear Lake Drive, Waseca, MN 56093. QSL information is on our QRZ page. SASE will be required. Certificate will be folded to fit SASE provided.

wasecavars@yahoo.com

09/12/2026 | 9/11 25th Anniversary

Sep 12, 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 Museum Ship CV-41 COMEDTRA NI6IW, 910 N Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. See www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw for details.

09/12/2026 | Baltimore Defender's Day

Sep 12, 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

09/12/2026 | Route 66 On the Air

Sep 12-Sep 20, 0000Z-2359Z, W6H, Rio Rancho, NM. Albuquerque DX Association. 7266 14074 14266 18080. QSL. Bill Mader W6H, 4701 Sombrerete Rd SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

<https://www.qrz.com/db/W6H>

09/12/2026 | VARS 60th Anniversary Special Event Station

Sep 12, 1500Z-2100Z, WA0CJU, Waseca, MN. Viking Amateur Radio Society. 14.275 MHz 7.250 MHz 14.074 MHz 7.074 MHz. Certificate & QSL. Kevin Dirks, 1705 Clear Lake Dr, Waseca, MN

56093. Certificate and QSL information, along with a brief history, may also be found on QRZ.

wa0jgt@arrl.net

09/13/2026 | Blue Ridge Bonanza

Sep 13, 1000Z-1600Z, W4CA, Roanoke, VA. Roanoke Valley ARC. 7.220 14.250. QSL. Roanoke Valley ARC, PO Box 2002, Roanoke, VA 24009. Blue Ridge Bonanza is a yearly celebration of the creation of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Members and others will be at different locations on the parkway with stations ex W4CA/Mile Marker W4CA.com

09/16/2026 | PAARC Founders Week Special event Station

Sep 16-Sep 26, 0000Z-0000Z, K3ZMC, Pottstown, Pa. Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club . 14.325 7.225 3.980 28.415. Certificate & QSL. Walt Skavinsky KB3SBC, 1574 Layfield Road, Pennsburg, PA 18073-1702. Celebrating 50 Years of Friendship, Service, and Amateur Radio Join the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club as we celebrate 50 years of organized amateur radio in the Pottstown area. Throughout the week, club members will operate K3ZMC from home, portable, and club stations to commemorate the club's history, honor its founders, and share the excitement of amateur radio with operators around the world. The celebration begins with a kickoff picnic and continues with 10 days of on-the-air activity across multiple bands and modes. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating the friendships, service, and spirit of amateur radio that have defined PAARC for more than five decades. Electronic certificates will be emailed to your QRZ address, and paper QSL cards are available; send SASE to KB3SBC <https://www.paarc.net>

09/16/2026 | The Saving of The Liberty Bell

Sep 16-Sep 24, 0000Z-2359Z, W3L, Harleysville, PA. WV2M. 7.030 7.240 14.030 14.240. QSL. Frank Gallo, 106 Tweed Way, Harleysville, PA 19438. <https://www.qrz.com/db/W3L>

09/17/2026 | Constitution Day/Week

Sep 17-Sep 24, 0700Z-0700Z, W3C, Rancho Cucamonga, CA. Jeff Widen. 14.239 7.239 21.339 28.339. QSL. Jeff Widen, 7548 Ramona Ave, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730. Special Event celebrating the 239th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787. Come join us during this second year of this special event. There will be 4 stations on the air this year: W3C, W0C, W4C and W8C. A QSL card and a copy of our Constitution will be available. See our QRZ page at event time. K6qcb@verizon.net

09/19/2026 | Fred Harvey House Museum on the Air

Sep 19, 1400Z-2000Z, KSØLV, Leavenworth, KS. Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club. 14.046 14.304 7.240 21.362. QSL. Steve Rice, 6850 Deer Ridge Dr, Shawnee, KS 66226. pkarc.org

09/19/2026 | State Line Radio Club Annual Picnic

Sep 19, 1400Z-2000Z, W3A, Holtwood, PA. State Line Radio Club. 14.240 21.280. QSL. Edward Reichenbach, 108 PARK CIR, Elkton, MD 21921. State Line Radio Club's Annual picnic at Muddy Run Park in Holtwood, Pa. Public is welcomed! www.statelineradioclub.com

09/19/2026 | Wright Brothers' First Complete Circular Flight near Dayton, Ohio

Sep 19, 1400Z-2359Z, W8DGN, Bellbrook, OH. Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club (BARC). 7.250 14.317 28.425. Certificate. Secretary, P.O. Box 73, Bellbrook, OH 45305. secretary@bellbrookarc.org

09/20/2026 | Fort Herkimer Recognition

Sep 20, 1200Z-2000Z, W2FHA, Ilion, NY. Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association, Inc.. 7.262 14.262. Certificate. Donald Rankins N2ZWO, 1435 Elizabethtown Rd., Ilion, NY 13357. This special event celebrates Fort Herkimer and the colonists of German Flatts during the American Revolution on the New York frontier. n2zwo@arri.net

09/26/2026 | Historic Soldiers Weekend Fort Mott State Park

Sep 26-Sep 27, 1400Z-1900Z, W2M, Pennsville, NJ. Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club. 7 14 21 28. Certificate. Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 370, Pitman, NJ 08071. POTA US-1617. Certificate available via email on request to qsl-request@w2mmd.org. Multiple stations on SSB, CW, and FT8 to run through the event with primary bands 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz and specific frequencies listed on the POTA Spots web page during the event. Hours of operation may extend to 2100Z on Saturday. <https://www.w2mmd.org>

09/26/2026 | Steubenville-Weirton Amateur Radio Club America 250 Ft. Steuben Special Event

Sep 26, 1400Z-2000Z, K8F, Steubenville, OH. Steubenville-Weirton Amateur Radio Club. 20M, CW, FT8, SSB 40M, CW, FT8, SSB. Certificate. Polly Givens, 8890 County Road 53, Bergholz, OH 43908.

Contacts may download a special event certificate once contact is confirmed. The website is SWARC.net swarc.net

09/26/2026 | Tri-states Special Event: Where SD, ND, MN meet

Sep 26-Sep 27, 1400Z-2350Z, W0JH, Stillwater, MN. Stillwater (MN) Amateur Radio Assoc. (SARA). 3.860 7.260 14.260 21.360. Certificate. Shel Mann - N0DRX, 1618 Pine St W, Stillwater, MN 55082. QSL Certificates will ONLY be sent via e-mail in PDF. Send QSO Contact Info ; W0JHwhiterock@outlook.com Request Certificate at W0JH Stations will be operating from the corners of South Dakota, North Dakota & edge of Minnesota (Grid Square: EN15). Encampment: White Rock, SD W0JHwhiterock@outlook.com

09/26/2026 | Villa Rica Gold Rush Special Event

Sep 26-Sep 27, 1230Z-0300Z, W4G, Temple, GA. West Georgia Amateur Radio Society. 3.85 7.30 14.26 21.32. Certificate & QSL. West Georgia Amateur Radio Society, POB 102, Bowdon Junction, GA 30109. wgars.com

09/26/2026 | Volcano Days

Sep 26, 1400Z-2000Z, W8PAR, Parkersburg, WV. Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub. 14.225 SSB 14.125 CW 7.200 SSB 7.100 CW FT* ON 20/40. Certificate & QSL. Jerry Wharton, 1722 20th. St., Parkersburg, WV 26101. Honoring the days when oil was a booming industry in Volcano, WV, before a destructive fire destroyed the town in 1879. First oil field in the US to employ the "endless cable pumping system" First regular gauge railroad built in the state of WV. First pipeline to be built in WV. W8PAR.ORG

09/26/2026 | White Trail Grange Car Show

Sep 26, 1700Z-2100Z, W7TT, Ephrata, WA. Central Washington Amateur Radio Club. 7.250 14.250 21.350. Certificate. Steven A Adler W7STV, 12548 Dodson Rd NW, Ephrata, WA 98823-9568. cwarc.w7tt.98823@gmail.com

09/27/2026 | Bolton Mansion / Phineas Pemberton House

Sep 27-Sep 29, 1200Z-0200Z, W3B, Levittown, PA. PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION. 7.200 14.250 18.135 146.79 -0.6 131.8PL. Certificate. PENN WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 925, Levittown,

PA 19058. The Phineas Pemberton House, also known as Bolton Mansion, built between 1687 and 1790 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 28, 1971. Pemberton was a Quaker and close associate of William Penn who served as Register of Wills, Recorder, and Clerk of the Court — integral to early colonial and county government. The house later served as the Sales and Engineering Headquarters for the construction of Levittown, making it a unique bridge between the area's colonial roots and its 1950s reinvention. WWW.PENNWIRELESS.ORG

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

**ARRL LINK SPECIAL
EVENT STATIONS**

BSFARC.ORG



Be sure to like and follow us on FaceBook



Visit us on the web at
<https://BSFARC.ORG>

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)

The Modulator newsletter is published monthly for members and friends of the Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club. BSFARC denies any responsibility for the accuracy or content of articles published herein. The opinions expressed are solely those of the authors. BSFARC neither necessarily endorses nor opposes said opinions, brand names, products, businesses, organizations, etc. Submission of any amateur radio related articles is encouraged and welcomed. Submit your article to the editor: Bill Green-KF4TY, PO Box 5029., Oneida, TN 37841 (or E-mail to: KC8SPV@gmail.com) for publication in THE MODULATOR. The deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.

MailPoet