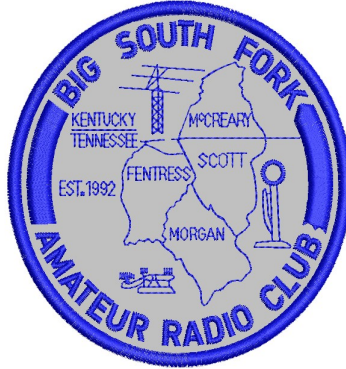


From: Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club <w4bsf@bsfarc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2026 7:55 AM
To: Bill Green
Subject: The Modulator October- 2026

[View this in your browser.](#)



Volume 34 Number 10- October 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

November 12, 2026

Our next training session/meet & greet will be held on November 12th - 2026 at 7:00pm Eastern at Roane State Community College in Huntsville TN. We will be doing a bit deeper dive on logging and tracking your contacts. We always meet the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Club Bi-Monthly Meeting/Holiday Gathering

December 10, 2026

Our last meeting of the year will be held on December 10th - 2026 at 7:00pm Eastern at Roane State Community College in Huntsville TN. Typically the agenda items are pretty light but we need to have our annual elections and plan for the 10 meter contest. We will get updates on the No Business 100 event as well.

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 America 250 Worked All States

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



EXTERNAL LINK GENERAL INFORMATION

Upcoming W1AW/P activations

11-4-2026: Arizona
 11-4-2026: Virginia
 11-11-2026: Kansas
 11-11-2026: Wyoming
 11-11-2026: Maryland
 11-18-2026: Mississippi
 11-18-2026: Washington
 11-25-2026: No activations as Thanksgiving week

12-2-2026 Delaware
 12-2-2026 Florida
 12-2-2026 Rhode Island
 12-2-2026 Montana (new date)
 12-9-2026 West Virginia
 12-9-2026 Guam
 12-16-2026 Alabama



October 23-24, 2026

The weather was perfect for a run through the park as low temps were in the 40s and it got to the low 70s on Friday afternoon. Overnight the runners had a little help from the full moon which illuminated the trails a bit more. Mika (bib #282) ran away with the race with an overall time of 20 hours and 11 minutes finishing first. She is from Colorado which may help explain why she was accustomed to running at some elevation. The first male finisher (Blake bib # 205) came in second overall almost 7 minutes behind Mika. Of local interest Amy (bib #153) of Jamestown finished 129th with a time of 32 hours and 23 minutes while the other runner dropped out at Blue Heron. Of the three Oneida entrants only Johnny (bib# 26) finished in 149th place with a time of 33 hours and 4 minutes.

We had a runner fall within the first couple of miles of the race, a possible broken ankle at Duncan Hollow and had a runner that missed the very last cut off time. She ended up running 96 miles still which was heartbreaking.

#2 Sawmill: Buddy W7BSF and Jamie KQ4ZIP

#3 Charit Creek: Joe C. N4YLA

#4 Bandy Creek (NET Control): Nancy KC8VTT, Carol KJ4QFD, Bill KF4TY, Avery KQ4PCE and Stephen W. KR4JIQ plus some scouts!!

#5 Grand Gap: Joe S. WD4JAS

#6 Duncan Hollow: Bill K. KQ4LOR and Sam Reid KK4DUP along with April WG4ACR (Jamestown but working at the aid station as a volunteer)

#7 Laurel Hill: Ken N4KAP

#8 Ledbetter: Glen KF4SKR

#14 Great Meadows: Darryl KQ4WKG and Jamie KQ4ZIP

#15 Blevins Cemetery: Joe C. N4YLA

Special thanks to Mike KR4BGH and Dave W9DXP for helping to monitor the repeater traffic.

October 22-23, 2027 (Save the Date!)

We are already in the planning stages for No Business 100 in 2027. The Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club was recognized for performing very well in passing traffic and for general health/welfare updates for each aid-station. For 2027 the race will be ran in the opposite direction which puts locations like Duncan Hollow and Bandy Creek into the overnight timeframe with a longer duration of operation. We kindly ask that you let Joe N4YLA know what you thought of the event this year, how our portion can be improved and if you are willing to help out again next year.

**No Business 100
Information**

JOTA October 16-18, 2026 (No local participation)



For 2027 we need to start planning earlier and to work with KR4JIQ and any other local scout groups.



So how did you do with the support your parks weekend? Tell us more at our next club meeting!

The new NEXT.POTA.APP web site has more information than ever before. You can track by state as to how many parks you have either activated or hunted. Under achievements you can see your latest certificate and any recent endorsements as well. With the spot history you can see who you spotted and who may have spotted you. Great for checking against your log.

SUPPORT YOUR PARKS FALL 2026

The weekend of October 17-18th was a great time to be on the air. Between POTA and the New York QSO party it was easy to make some contacts. Joe N4YLA, Bill KF4TY and Jamie KQ4ZIP activated a park or two plus hunted some parks for their certificates. Dave K4IDB and Stephen KR4JIQ achieved their hunter certificates as well.



Bill KF4TY and Nancy KC8VTT attended the Chattanooga hamfest on opening day (October 16th) and was able to pick up a couple of deals. He scored a ham fest T-shirt from last years event for \$1.00. The bet was \$10.00 with Nancy he would not buy anything. Bill commented that was the best \$10.00 he ever spent!! Bill also picked up a 75-meter ham stick along with a UHF to 3/8-24 adapter plus some coax cable. David Thomas KN4NYI our section manager and Jim Snyder AJ4NO the section emergency coordinator were present as well. A good discussion was held and covered a wide range of topics as David is running for delta division director and talked about his vision for the future of ARRL.

LOCAL HAM FESTS 2027

03/20/2027 - [Sevier County TN 2027 Hamfest](#)

04/10/2027 - [Cleveland Amateur Radio Club - STAR-FEST](#)

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 operators 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. We know we have a long ways to go but we need to get started before an emergency occurs. Drop us an email at W4BSF@BSFARC.ORG if you are interested in emergency communications.

Morgan and Scott are located in District 8 for TN ARES and the position of District Emergency Coordinator is open. We know it's a stretch but if this is something you are interested in please reach out to Jim Snyder AJ4NO.

ARES

Skywarn Recognition Day CANCELLED



Here's the latest update regarding Skywarn Recognition Day. The Skywarn team is acting on prior guidance from NWS leadership to re-imagine the event as a broader "Spotter Appreciation Day." They will not be conducting the event this year. So, there will be no 2026 Skywarn Recognition Day. The NWS and ARRL are working together to find a date for Spotter Appreciation Day early next year, probably sometime in March.

As a club we were going to have a couple of members activate the NWS station in Morristown. Hopefully they will reschedule for the spring of 2027.

ARRL 10-Meter Contest December 12-13, 2026



For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10-meter band – using CW-only, or Phone-only, or both modes (Mixed category). Each member is eligible to participate both individually and also submit as part of our club. We generally do fairly well in the club category but could use all the help of each individual operator. Last year we finished 9th in the country with 42,380 points with only 4 operators submitting logs.

ACTION ITEM: Please confirm with Bill KF4TY if you wish to submit log as part of BSFARC's entry as we need to pre-register everyone with the ARRL contest manager.

Once again Buddy W7BSF and Melinda will offer their home QTH for those wishing to get on the air and try out some different radios and amplifiers.

Winter Field Day

January 23-24, 2027



Winter Field Day is an exciting annual event for amateur radio enthusiasts, taking place on the 4th full weekend of January. It offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations, enabling them to connect with other participants worldwide. You may choose to participate solo or get your your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is organized by the Winter Field Day Association. The association strongly believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns.

The Winter Field Day event aims to help participants improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities in adverse conditions. Amateur radio operators have the freedom to use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands while employing voice, CW, and digital transmissions. The event designates specific objectives to encourage a diverse range of activities, including the use of non-commercial power sources, the deployment of multiple antennas, establishing satellite contacts, and more.

Operational Period: Winter Field Day is held the 4th full weekend in January. For 2027, it will be held on January 23rd and 24th. The 30-hour operational period starts at 1600 UTC on Saturday (11 am EST), the 23rd, and ends at 21:59 UTC on Sunday, the 24th (4:59 pm EST). Stations may begin setting up no earlier than 16:00 UTC (11 am EST) on the Friday before. However, cumulative set-up time shall not exceed 12 hours.

Exchange: The designated Winter Field Day exchange includes your callsign, a category letter, a class number, and a location identifier.

Class: A number designated by the number of transceivers (stations) at your location that are capable of transmitting simultaneously. 1, 2, 3, etc. This means you have the people needed to operate the number of transmitters you choose. Don't count a station if it must be left unattended while you make contacts with another.

Category: You must choose which category you will operate in. If you are operating as a group under one callsign, choose the category that applies to the majority of the stations at your field day site.

Category Options:

H - Home station: operating inside a permanent livable residence.

I - Indoor station: operating away from Home but from inside an insulated, weather-protected building (or structure) on a permanent foundation. Indoor stations typically have plumbing, HVAC, and running water. Church, EOC, club shack, cabin, and community center are all examples of Indoor stations.

O - Outdoor station: operating from a partly or fully exposed building or shelter that does not typically have plumbing, HVAC, or running water available.

Operating from a picnic table, park pavilion, tents, or under pop-up canopies are all places that could be considered Outdoor. These are locations where you may have to provide your own heat source and/or protection from the elements.

M - Mobile / Mobile Stationary: operating from a mobile or potentially mobile structure like an RV, car, van, sailboat, cargo trailer, mobile EOC, bus, plane, etc. These are operating positions that may offer some sort of built-in heating/cooling. Mobile stations do not have to be mobile during the event. They must have the ability to become mobile during the event. RVs and cargo trailers with external antennas are still considered Mobile.

Location Identifier: US and Canadian stations will use the ARRL / RAC Section as designated by those organizations. Mexico stations will use MX. All other stations will use DX.

Exchange examples: If you have two stations and you are mobile in East Pennsylvania, you are 2M EPA. One station at home in Georgia would be 1H GA. Four stations outdoors in West Texas would be 40 WTX. Six stations indoors in Minnesota would be 6I MN.

Additional Information: The goal is to copy and record the full exchange accurately. Nothing additional is required in the exchange. However, we encourage you to exchange additional information such as signal report, county, grid square, temperature, weather conditions, site gear, etc. In an emergency, you may be asked to relay anything from a list of supplies to GPS coordinates. Collecting and correctly copying down this information is an important skill you should practice during Winter Field Day.

Bands: All Amateur bands may be used except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters.



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.

From Our Section Manager:

Hello TN Section ARRL members.

With so many things to report this month, this is the biggest edition of the newsletter we've had here in Tennessee for quite some time. I want to personally thank our section's Public Information Coordinator Sky McCracken KO4DKI for all his hard work and doing such a great job as our PIC.

There's a great article submitted by Cliff Segar from the Roane County Amateur Radio Club, who reports they have just donated three sets of ARRL books to the three libraries in that county. They are challenging other clubs to do likewise by using the ARRL's "Library Book Set" program. For more information about how your club can purchase a complete set of popular ARRL publications for your library, please visit [ARRL Publications](#).

The W1AW portable event recently completed its second week operating here in the Tennessee Section. This is part of the ARRL's "America 250 Worked All States" event that's going on all year in honor of our nation's 250th anniversary. Despite challenging band conditions, the Tennessee Section reported 4672 contacts made in the week W1AW/4 was active in TN and 2340 contacts in the September week. We owe a debt of gratitude to Cathy Goodrich W4CMG for serving as the W1AW/4 Coordinator for the Tennessee Section. She did a fantastic job scheduling operators, promoting the event, keeping track of all the logbooks, and making sure everything went smoothly during the two weeks

W1AW was operating in Tennessee.

Thank you, Cathy!!

The ARRL Tennessee Section is growing! Affiliated Club Coordinator Dudley Pitts KM4IYQ reports two new Affiliated Clubs: The Bledsoe County Amateur Radio Club and the Freed-Hardeman University Amateur Radio Club. Welcome!

The Chattanooga Hamfest is coming up on October 16 and 17 at the Colonnade in Ringold, GA (just a couple miles across the state line). There will be a couple of awards presented this year in the ARRL Forum, and I'm sure looking forward to seeing everybody there. Chattanooga always puts on a great hamfest!

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

73 for now,

David Thomas / KM4NYI
Section Manager
ARRL Tennessee Section

Book Challenge from the Roane County ARC

2026 has been the ARRL Year of the Club, and September was National Preparedness Month. What better preparedness is there than having available a communications system which does not depend on any other infrastructure than what you yourself possess.

Communications lines can be cut or damaged. Phone systems can fail with an erroneous update. Power delivery can glitch and drop. And using radio we can alert others about calamity from the source.

FRS is free and good for short range communications within a small group. But that doesn't get much beyond the valley you are in. Paying for a GMRS license allows more power and repeaters allowing greater geographic coverage. But GMRS is still limited to UHF and a very limited selection of repeater channels with no coordination against interference.

I once read a statement that amateur radio is the most powerful communications system available to normal citizens. I will agree with that.

With amateur radio we have bands of RF spectrum available from VLF to EHF and beyond. With an amateur radio license, we can learn how each of those bands of spectrum behave, what times of day or night they are best, what mode reaches through noise, how different antennas perform, and a

seemingly unlimited host of other bits of knowledge. A license for the Amateur Radio Service is actually a license to learn.

Many have gone before us, and we can still learn much from early pioneers like Reginald Fessenden, Guglielmo Marconi, Shintaro Uda, and Edwin Armstrong. We can also learn from contemporary giants like Joe Taylor, Valentino Barbi, Stefan Scholl, or Heinz Schmiedel. Most of us recognize those early names, but current “state of the art” and cutting-edge technology is being developed today by contemporary individuals.

But where to find useful, accurate, and current information is sometimes difficult. It’s probably somewhere out there on the internet, but locating that item probably requires doing a Google search on how to do a detailed Google search for a subject we don’t even know how to describe! And how would someone even know how to obtain a license in the Amateur Radio Service?

Fortunately, there are books filled with that knowledge – from early pioneers to current individuals – all in one place. But does a curious local school aged individual or aging retiree have access to that? They do in Roane County Tennessee at all 3 of the local libraries. The Roane County Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) purchased 3 of the ARRL Library Book Set and distributed them to the Harriman, Kingston, and Rockwood city libraries. License manuals, the ARRL Handbook, Antenna book, Basic Antennas, and more are all there. 11 books in all – filled with everything from basic information to very advanced theory and operation. And every book in each library has a label with how to find our local club.

We of the RCARC would encourage, and even challenge, other clubs to invest in the future of amateur radio and their local club with similar donations. Let’s grow amateur radio.

Cliff Segar/KD4GT
Roane County Amateur Radio Club

Greetings all amateur radio operators and affiliated club members. We need your action immediately to help fight off the HOA lobby groups. Sample letters are attached. Please distribute this to as many TN amateurs as possible. See below for details of how to help:

The community-association industry is making a coordinated effort to defeat H.R. 1094 and S. 459, the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.

The Community Associations Institute reports that 123 advocates conducted 129 congressional meetings involving 79 representatives and 50 senators. Its accompanying campaign sent 276 emails to 109 members of Congress. Opposition to H.R. 1094 and S. 459 was one of its stated priorities.

<https://advocacy.caionline.org/2026-advocacy-summit-recap/>

With both bills still in committee and limited time remaining in the current Congress, we need a coordinated Tennessee constituent response.

I have attached (email us at W4BSF@BSFARC.ORG if you want a sample letter):

- A member action guide with the campaign schedule, every Tennessee congressional office and telephone number, instructions for finding a representative, and live-call and voicemail scripts.
- A print-ready PDF containing sample constituent letters for H.R. 1094 and S. 459.
- Editable Word versions of the House and Senate letters.

The requested member action is:

- Contact the member's own U.S. representative and both Tennessee senators.
- Call all three offices during the October 26-30 opening campaign.
- If no one answers, leave a voicemail. Members should provide their name, city or county, ZIP code, bill number, requested action, and callback information.
- Beginning the following week, call each office once weekly until support is confirmed or Congress adjourns.
- Clubs should stagger participation so offices receive calls from different Tennessee constituents every business day.
- Send the appropriate written letter after calling.

Members can identify their representative here:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Key telephone numbers:

- U.S. Capitol Switchboard: [202-224-3121](tel:202-224-3121)
- Senator Marsha Blackburn: [202-224-3344](tel:202-224-3344)
- Senator Bill Hagerty: [202-224-4944](tel:202-224-4944)

The national online letter tool is also available here:

<https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>

This is a federal campaign and should remain separate from our Tennessee General Assembly sponsor outreach and the TACIR submission.

Thank you for helping get this information to clubs and members quickly.

Andrew M. Gossett

Tennessee State Government Liaison

American Radio Relay League

[615-390-7545](tel:615-390-7545)

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.

The club is also working on ordering some logo patches that members can apply to backpacks or coats. More information to follow as we have already voted to order we just need to confirm which vendor we are going with.

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!

The current question pool for technicians is valid through June 30, 2030 but please don't wait that long! The general class question pool is good until June 30, 2027 which is approaching quickly. For those wishing to take the extra exam the current pool is good through June 30, 2028. Keep studying and make sure to renew any current license.

LICENSE EXAM

Calendar of Events 2026



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

Calendar of Events 2027

Have an upcoming event for 2027 let's get in on the calendar now! Activities in YELLOW are tentative as we await for confirmation of the dates.

1/14/2027	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
1/16/2027	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
1/17/2027	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
1/23/2027	Winter Field Day
1/24/2027	Winter Field Day
2/12/2027	HamCation Orlando FL
2/13/2027	HamCation Orlando FL
2/14/2027	HamCation Orlando FL
2/11/2027	BSFARC Meeting/Meet & Greet
3/6/2027	Cave City 51st Annual Hamfest
3/12/2027	MTARS Tullahoma Hamfest
3/13/2027	MTARS Tullahoma Hamfest
3/11/2027	BSFARC Training/Meet & Greet
3/20/2027	Sevier County 2027 Hamfest
4/8/2027	BSFARC Meeting/Meet & Greet
4/10/2027	Cleveland Amateur Radio Club - STAR-FEST
4/10/2027	Radio Active Mid-South Expo - Memphis TN
4/17/2027	Greenville TN Hamfest
4/17/2027	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
4/18/2027	POTA Support Your Parks Weekend
4/24/2027	Big South Fork Spring Planting Day Festival

The Future of Morse Code Has a Call Sign

As the Long Island CW Club welcomes its 10,000th member, 11-year-old Maggie KE2AIZ shows how a century-old mode is finding new life with a new generation.

Ten thousand is more than a membership number. For the Long Island CW Club, it marks the growth of a small group into a worldwide community united by Morse code—and an opportunity to look ahead.

When Don KC0DWZ noted that the milestone was approaching, he suggested commemorating it by thoughtfully choosing the recipient of member number 10,000. The question soon became not simply who should receive the number, but what it should represent. The answer was the future. Meet Member 10,000.

That distinction belongs to Maggie KE2AIZ. Now 11, Maggie began her amateur radio journey at seven after watching her two older sisters pursue their licences. She asked her father, “Can I get my licence, too?” He needed convincing that she was serious. She was.

With classes from the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and many hours of study and practice, Maggie earned her Amateur Extra Class licence only a couple of months later. Few

people can say that Ohm's Law introduced them to multiplication, division and decimals, but Maggie can.

Her next step was the LICW Kids classes, where she learned Morse code and made her first CW QSO as soon as she had the essentials to get on the air. Today, she describes herself as a "mostly-CW" contester. She continues to sharpen her on-air skills, encourage other young operators and, in 2025, received a Young Achiever's Award from the Radio Club of America.

Giving Maggie this historic membership number carries powerful symbolism. It recognizes what she has already accomplished while pointing to the future of Morse code—and to the importance of passing the tradition from one generation to the next.

The club congratulates Maggie and thanks her family for allowing her story to become part of this landmark moment in LICW history.

What better way to celebrate how far LICW has come than by recognizing someone who represents where Morse code is going?

~ With information from The Long Island CW Club

The Smith Chart

Why is the Smith Chart one of the scariest charts in electrical engineering?

An engineering Smith chart is basically a graphical calculator for RF circuits and transmission lines; a graphical tool that lets an RF engineer see what is happening to impedance and signal reflections instead of calculating everything with equations.

In layman's terms:

It helps you see how a radio signal behaves when it travels through a coax cable, antenna, or other RF circuit.

Instead of doing lots of complex calculations, you can plot a point and move around the chart to find things such as:

- Impedance (resistance + reactance)
- SWR
- reflection coefficient
- how a transmission line changes the impedance seen by the radio
- where to place an impedance-matching component
- The chart is essentially a map of all possible impedances.

For example, if your antenna is 50 Ω , it sits at the centre of the chart because a 50- Ω system is perfectly matched. As the antenna becomes mismatched, the point moves away from the centre, and the chart lets you visualize how bad the mismatch is and how it can be corrected.

If you're familiar with SWR and NanoVNA, the Smithchart is particularly useful because a NanoVNA can plot your measured antenna impedance directly on one. You'll find a great explanation on this YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK2pZ_oVU1o

TechTip #3 Radials and counterpoises

John VA3KOT

TechTips on Ham Radio Outside the Box are occasional short posts on specific technical topics. But beware, along with regular posts here on this blog, the content is not a definitive technical treatise and should not be read as such. I write about my own opinions and experiences; your opinions and experiences may be quite different. I welcome constructive feedback either in the comments or, if you prefer, by direct email.

“All lies and jest ...

Still a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest”. Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel sang those words in their song “The Boxer”. The words reflect how hams often react when our long-held, cherished beliefs are challenged. “My antenna just works, I don’t care about all that technical stuff” is a view I have heard – especially when the antenna cost hundreds of dollars. And nothing creates more exothermic debate than the subject of radials. Or is that counterpoises?

Read full article at:

<https://hamradiooutsidethebox.ca/2026/08/05/techtip-3-radials-and-counterpoises/>

Feds Hunting for German Spy Found a 12-Year-Old Radio Genius Instead

By Robert Chartuk ·

Federal agents arrived at a Brooklyn brownstone during World War I believing they were closing in on a German spy.

Powerful radio transmissions had been detected coming from a home just across the street from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, one of the nation's most strategically important military facilities. At a time when fears of enemy espionage were running high, authorities suspected German agents were using the radio to gather intelligence on naval operations.

Instead, they found a 12-year-old boy.

Read full article at:

https://www.southshorepress.com/local/feds-hunting-for-german-spy-found-a-12-year-old-radio-genius-instead-f1bcee91?utm_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

THE DISCOVERY OF RADIO WAVES

By [George R. Steber](#)

When the concept of electromagnetic waves was first proposed around 1864, it was met with great skepticism. As a result, the idea languished for a long time. This is understandable since the foundations of the theory were complex and the conceptual ideas were at odds with physical thinking. It took several decades for a handful of dedicated persons — infatuated with the mysteries of electricity and magnetism — to finally put the theory on a solid footing.

Read full article at:

https://www.nutsvolts.com/magazine/article/the-discovery-of-radio-waves?utm_medium=email&hsmi=34341077&utm_content=34341077&utm_source=hs_email

MacWinlink--A Native macOS Client for Winlink

The Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. (ARSFI) and the Winlink Development Team are pleased to announce the public beta release of MacWinlink, a native macOS Winlink client for Apple Silicon Macintosh computers.

MacWinlink represents a significant milestone for macOS users of the Winlink system. In development for nearly a year, the application is written entirely in Swift and is designed to provide a modern, native macOS experience while bringing the capabilities of the Winlink system to the Mac platform.

The goal of MacWinlink is to provide feature parity with Winlink Express while taking advantage of the capabilities and conventions of the macOS platform. The public beta is an opportunity for the wider Winlink community to test the application, exercise its various radio interfaces and messaging capabilities, and provide feedback to the development team as development continues.

Read more for how to participate in the public beta test.

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.

November 2026

10/31/2026 | 2026 Frankenstein Halloween FunXpedition

Oct 31-Nov 1, 1800Z-0300Z, W00, Jefferson City, MO. Mid-MO ARC. 3.538 3.963 14.038 14.280. QSL. Kent Trimble, K9ZTV, 2210 Heartland Ridge, Jefferson City, MO 65109. Annual Halloween FunXpedition from the only Frankenstein in the USA. CW & SSB 80-10. Consult spotting networks for frequencies. W00 QSL info on QRZ.com. Further details: K9ZTV

10/31/2026 | Boo to You

Oct 31-Nov 1, 0000Z-0300Z, KC5Boo, Cleburne, TX. KC5NX. 7.074 14.038 14.074 14.278. QSL. Boo to You, 3701 Park Rd 21, Cleburne, TX 76033. Kc5boo@yahoo.com

11/01/2026 | 51st Anniversary, Sinking of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald

Nov 1-Nov 14, 0000Z-2359Z, W8F, Livonia, MI. Livonia Amateur Radio Club. 14.260 7.260 7.050 14.050. Certificate. Electronic Only See QRZ page, 145.350 MHz, Livonia, MI 48151. <https://livoniaarc.com>

11/01/2026 | Nat'l Animal Shelter Appreciation Week

Nov 1-Nov 7, 0000Z-2359Z, KØDOG, Melville, NY. Dog Day Radio Amateur Radio Club. 7.035 14.040. QSL. Caryn Eve Murray, 2 Wallingford Drive, Melville, NY 11747. <https://www.qrz.com/db/KØDOG>

11/01/2026 | 88th Anniversary of the War of the World Broadcast

Nov 1, 0500Z-1000Z, W0W, Grovers Mill, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association. 7225 14255 7050 14050. Certificate & QSL. Delaware Valley Radio Association, PO BOX 7024, Trenton, NJ 08628. w2zq.com

11/01/2026 | SVARA 50th Birthday

Nov 1-Nov 30, 0000Z-2359Z, K5GVL, Greenville, TX. Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association. 7.250 14.250 21.350 28.350. QSL. SVARA 50th Birthday, PO BOX 843, Greenville, TX 75403. president@k5gvl.com

11/06/2026 | 18th Annual Veteran Honor Guard Vigil at the Ottawa IL War Memorial

Nov 6-Nov 7, 2200Z-2200Z, W9TAL, Ottawa, IL. The American Legion Post 33 Amateur Radio Club.. 7.074 14.074 . QSL. Joe Tokarz, The American Legion Post 33 Amateur Radio Club, 901 LaSalle St., Ottawa, IL 61350. <https://www.ottawaalpost33.com>

11/06/2026 | 2026 Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald - Split Rock Lighthouse

Nov 6-Nov 8, 1600Z-2355Z, 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. Requested and sent via email: W0JHFitz@outlook.com. QSL certificates may only be requested via email address: W0JHFitz@outlook.com. Important: ONLY W0JH contacts qualify for POTA US-2524, US-8095, ARLHS

USA 783 validations and submission to LOTW. OTHER STATIONS operating this event will have DIFFERENT QSL INSTRUCTIONS. Visit www.radioham.org and QRZ.com (W0JH) for more W0JH details. This marks the 51st year since the famous iron-ore carrier was caught in a fierce fall storm on Lake Superior. The event pays tribute to the crew of 29 who all perished. This is the 22nd consecutive year the SARA has conducted this event. www.radioham.org

11/06/2026 | Aviation Discovery Fest

Nov 6, 1500Z-2300Z, WX30, San Marcos, TX. Commerative Air Force Central Texas Wing. 14.245 14.285 7.250. QSL. Mark Julicher, 5649 Temerity Way, Bulverde, TX 78163. centrltexaswing.org

11/07/2026 | 100-year celebration of RT 66

Nov 7, 1600Z-2200Z, KF0MSJ, Union, MO. Zero - Beaters Amateur Radio Club. 14.250. QSL. GREG BALLARD, 662 E Main St, Union, MO 63084. WE WILL SEND OUT QSL CARDS TO ALL CONTACTS redbirdfan44stl@yahoo.com

11/07/2026 | Punta Gorda Air Show 2026

Nov 7, 1300Z-2000Z, W7MHM, Punta Gorda, FL. Military Heritage Museum Amateur Radio Club. 14.285. QSL. Don Kumpost, 24771 Rio Villa Lakes Circle, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. THIS EVENT IS CANCELLED! www.w7mhm.org

11/08/2026 | W2TE SES POTA DAY

Nov 8, 1030Z-2030Z, W2GSB, Babylon, NY. GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. 14.245 28.500 21.325 7.275. Certificate. GSBARC W2TE POTA , 200 East Sunrise Hwy, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. WWW.GSBARC.ORG

11/11/2026 | 100th ANNIVERSARY OF ROUTE 66

Nov 11, 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, , Sahuarita, AZ 85629. www.gvarc.us

11/11/2026 | USS Orleck Amateur Radio Society (OARS) Veteran's Day Event

Nov 11, 1400Z-2100Z, WJ4DD, Jacksonville, FL. USS Orleck Amateur Radio Society (OARS). 7.190 7.250 14.250 14.320. Certificate. Kenneth Krull, 6143 Winding Bridge Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32099.

<https://fhnsa.org/oars>

11/11/2026 | Adoption of the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union

Nov 11-Nov 18, 0000Z-2359Z, WV2M, Harleysville, PA. WV2M. 14.074 7.074 7.030 14.030. QSL. Frank Gallo, 106 Tweed Way, Harleysville, PA 19438. www.wv2m.com

11/11/2026 | Articles of Confederation

Nov 11-Nov 18, 0000Z-2359Z, W3A, Harleysville, PA. WV2M. 7.030 7.074 14.030 14.074. QSL. Frank Gallo, 106 Tweed Way, Harleysville, PA 19438. <https://www.qrz.com/db/W3A>

11/11/2026 | Veteran's Day, National DDay Memorial

Nov 11, 1430Z-1900Z, W2B, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. New River Valley Amateur Radio Club. 14.262. QSL. Danny Wylam, 710 McDaniel Drive Southeast, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073-3848. Veteran's Day from the National DDay Memorial in Bedford VA dannywylam@gmail.com

11/11/2026 | Veterans Day

Nov 11, 1500Z-2130Z, W4V, Tampa, FL. American Victory ARC. 14.265. QSL. Rick Burbes - KE9VS, 5224 Franklin Woodland Dr, Plant City, FL 33565. rikabob2000@yahoo.com

11/13/2026 | Guns on the Air (GOTA) 65th Anniversary of the WVARC

Nov 13-Nov 15, 2000Z-2000Z, NY7S, Sun City, AZ. West Valley Amateur Radio Club . 14.250 147.300. QSL. WVARC GOTA, PO Box 1573, Sun City, AZ 85372. westvalleyARC.com

11/14/2026 | 1st Transatlantic QSO

Nov 14, 1400Z-2200Z, K3S, Baltimore, MD. Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. 7000. QSL. Ullis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Road, Odenton, MD 21113. qrz.com/db/k3s

11/14/2026 | USS Cobia Veterans Day Special Event

Nov 14-Nov 15, 1420Z-1420Z, NB9QV , Manitowoc, WI. NB9QV Cobia Club. 7.240 14.240. Certificate. E-certificate only , kc9yl@arrl.net, Manitowoc, WI 54220. Send contact information to kc9yl@arrl.net to receive PDF certificate via email. www.qrz.com/db/nb9qv

11/14/2026 | Veterans Day (11-11-1919) & USMC Birthday (11-10-1775)

Nov 14, 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. See www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw for details

11/17/2026 | NRA Birthday Celebration

Nov 17, 1500Z-2359Z, K7GST, Prescott, AZ. Yavapai Amateur Radio Club. 7.250 14.250 21.335 28.340. Certificate. downloadable certificate only, None, Prescott, AZ 86304. nrabirthday@w7yrc.org

11/21/2026 | W6SFM On-Air Bug Roundup

Nov 21-Nov 23, 0000Z-0000Z, W6SFM, Sacramento, CA. Samuel F. Morse Amateur Radio Club. 3.533 7.033 14.033 21.033. QSL. W6SFM c/o John Geyer, 4901 Minnesota Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. <https://w6sfm.org/bug-roundup>

11/27/2026 | Amateur Radio Software Award

Nov 27-Dec 7, 0600Z-2359Z, K7A, Ames, IA. Amateur Radio Software Award. 14.250 7.180. QSL. Amateur Radio Software Award, Special Event Station, P.O. Box 126, Ames, IA 50010. The special event to promote innovative, free and open amateur radio software and bring awareness to the Amateur Radio Software Award. During the event we honor the Hamlib project as the 2026 award recipient with Nate Bargmann (N0NB), George Baltz (N3GB), Daniele Forsi (IU5HKX), and Mikael Nousiainen (OH3BHX) as the current core developers. As part of the special event we encourage people to submit nominations for the 2027 Amateur Radio Software Award. <https://arsaward.com/special-event.html>

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

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