



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

AUGUST 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, AUGUST 12,
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

JULY MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the July meeting. The Field Day operation was reviewed... HF conditions were pretty good. The GOTA station experienced a high noise level which bothered the operators (welcome to ham radio!). The source was not immediately identified. Our Club's contribution, the 6 meter station, experienced a slow start on Saturday but Sunday was good. They had 100+ contacts on 6m FT8. There was some rain overnight. The food was great! Reminder of the Indianapolis Radio Club picnic on Sat., July 26. Dave, N9KZJ, reminded us the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by [Japanese submarine I-58](#) and sunk July 30, 1945.

Hello ARRL Central Division – It is with deep regret that I announce the passing of our fellow amateur radio operator, Dick Isely, W9GIG, who became a silent key over this last weekend. Dick was a respected and active member of the amateur radio community, known for his dedication to the hobby and support for the ARRL. Dick served as Central Division Director from January 2001 until his resignation in July 2016 and as a director for the ARRL Foundation from 2007 until July 2016. Dick was elected as an ARRL Honorary Vice President by his fellow board colleagues in July 2016. Our thoughts are with Dick's family, friends and all who had the pleasure of knowing him. – ARRL Central Division Director: Brent A Walls, N9BAn9ba@arrl.org

Our Club website, W9RCA.org, was recently changed to a secure site. To access the site, you will have use <https://w9rca.org>

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

Date: August 9, 2025
Time: Starting at Noon **by appointment only.**
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407
Contact: **James Kajder (505) 228-3704**
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
Required: FCC FRN and a completed NCVEC 605 license application form.
Laurel VEC test sessions: <https://www.laurelvec.com/?pg=exams>

HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Open Net, Thurs. 7PM, W9RCA repeater, 146.88 MHz, tone 88.5 Hz

Aug 09 - [Hendricks County Tailgate Fest](#), Avon, IN
Aug 17 [Rookie Roundup](#)
Sept 13-15 [September VHF contest](#)
Sept 13 - [MARC Tailgate Hamfest](#), Edinburgh, IN
Oct 04 - [Shelbyville Tailgate](#), Shelbyville, IN

WA7BNM expanded contest calendar, <https://www.contestcalendar.com/> Visit the **ARRL Special Event Stations database** at www.arrl.org/special-event-station to find other on-the-air events and commemorations.

Hamfest or Convention: www.arrl.org/hamfests

Find a license exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

ARRL Home: www.arrl.org

ARRL FIELD DAY 2025 SAW GROWTH IN PARTICIPANTS AND ENTRIES

The numbers are in and showing growth. [2025 ARRL Field Day](#) showed an increase in both participants and entries, compared to 2024. According to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, 4,369 entries detailed 31,785 people taking part in the event. That's up from last year.

"There's a growing interest in ham radio, especially after last year's hurricane season and other high-profile situations in which radio has been essential," noted Bourque. "ARRL Field Day serves as a great chance to get engaged with your local amateur radio community."

The uptick in numbers may not be complete, as there's still an opportunity for a few more entries to be added. "Occasionally, a club will need to update their entry. We work with them to make sure it is correct," said Bourque.

Field Day participants should check that all the required supporting documentation related to their entries has been received by checking the Entries Received web page at field-day.arrl.org/fdentriessrcvd.php. If the status of your entry is listed as Pending Documents, one or more of the required documents still needs to be submitted to complete your entry. Entrants may use the link provided in the confirmation email they received to upload additional documents or to modify their entries. Currently, 223 entries are listed as being incomplete. Updates to existing entries will be accepted until August 29, 2025. If you're having difficulty completing your Field Day entry or have any questions, contact fieldday@arrl.org.

On the public outreach front, final measurement numbers of the media coverage earned by amateur radio public information volunteers have been tallied. ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, reports that the total ad value equivalence (AVE) of 2025 ARRL Field Day is \$37.9 million. "We had a tremendous response from clubs and ARRL public information volunteers this year on the heels of Ham Radio Open House into ARRL Field Day," she said. "The ARRL Public Relations Committee prepared resources to help the volunteers succeed, but they really took it to the next level in communities across the country."

AVE measures the amount of money that would have to be spent to buy ads in media and social media to replace the news coverage volunteers secured with press outreach. The \$37.9M figure measures only mentions of ARRL Field Day from January 1 – July 31 of each year. In 2024, the figure was \$20M, and \$18M in 2023. Harrop hopes to see further strengthening of public information volunteers leading into 2026, which ARRL has designated as the Year of the Club. Hams seeking to serve as an [ARRL public information volunteer](#) may express interest to their ARRL Section Manager.

The overall growth is encouraging to ARRL. "I'm very pleased with the amount of active ARRL Field Day participants this year. It's nice to see more and more people participating!" said Bourque. ARRL Letter

INTRODUCING RADIO ALPHA, THE ARRL MUSEUM AND RESEARCH LIBRARY

There's a new resource from ARRL documenting the history of ham radio. Radio Alpha is the ARRL® Museum and Research Library. It is available for viewing at www.arrl.org/museum. Radio Alpha is envisioned as a Wikipedia-like project, administered by a trusted group of volunteers.

It aims to serve as a definitive repository of information, offering detailed descriptions and contextual data on pivotal figures, influential organizations, pioneering companies, transformative inventions, and iconic equipment that have shaped the amateur radio landscape. Radio Alpha addresses the critical need for a centralized, reliable, and easily navigable archive of amateur radio's past.

Recognizing the fragmented nature of existing historical data, this database will consolidate diverse information sources into a single, cohesive platform. Users will find meticulously researched entries, cross-referenced to provide a holistic understanding of the connections and evolutions within the hobby. A core principle of Radio Alpha is universal accessibility. Therefore, the database will be entirely free to access, ensuring that researchers, historians, enthusiasts, and the public can explore its contents without barriers.

Noted author, industrial archeologist, and historian Chuck Penson, WA7ZZE, is the principal architect who crafted the collection. Penson has published several books about the history of Heathkit and the Titan II missile. For him, it's a labor of love and necessity. "Somebody has to do this," said Penson. "Lots of people are doing it independently on their own – here's a website about the equipment I own, and here's some documents I scanned – there's a lot of that." The lack of a central location to compile those collections is the root of Radio Alpha. Penson hopes the research library will preserve the data long after individual contributors have passed away.

The platform is committed to being free of advertising, spam, and clickbait, prioritizing the integrity of its historical content and providing an uncluttered user experience. "This database will be a living resource, regularly updated and expanded through ongoing research and community contributions, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of amateur radio's profound impact on communication, technology, and society," wrote Penson.

Radio Alpha seeks contributors and volunteers to help develop the content. Hams who have a passion for the history of radio, experience in writing, or extensive knowledge about a particular brand or mode of amateur radio are encouraged to volunteer. The museum also seeks materials that may help grow the collection. Those interested may reach out to Penson at radioalpha@arrl.org.

Penson hopes the data will be preserved forever. "ARRL has an organizational structure that allows it to take a long view on stuff like this. It is best equipped to handle a project like Radio Alpha."

Radio Alpha, the ARRL Museum and Research Library, may be enjoyed at www.arrl.org/radioalpha or www.arrl.org/museum.

HAM RADIO RESPONDS DURING TSUNAMI THREAT

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) reports that amateur radio operators, including volunteers serving in the ARRL® [Amateur Radio Emergency Service®](#) (ARES®) were active in monitoring the potential impacts of tsunami waves following an earthquake off the Russian coast on July 29, 2025. The quake registered 8.8 on the Richter scale, and prompted tsunami concerns and warnings around the Pacific rim.

ARRL Pacific Section Manager Alan Maenchen, AD6E, lives in Wailuku, Hawaii. He was monitoring ham radio communications across the state. "There was some minor flooding in a

few areas. It could have been worse. Some of the early waves were measured at 4.5 feet. Waves continue this morning but at a much lower level and difficult to notice by the naked eye," he reported.

The well-networked ham radio operators in Hawaii quickly sprang into action following the alerts. Informal VHF nets were held on amateur radio repeaters. "Rick (Ward), WH6FC, held an informational statewide HF net on 7090 kHz LSB for many hours and there were about 57 check-ins," said Maenchen.

On the US mainland, radio amateurs were also on alert. "The Oregon coast teams appear to have been in informal monitoring mode so that they are readily available for activation if needed," said Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, who serves as the Section Emergency Coordinator of the ARRL Oregon Section.

The California Rescue Net on 40 meters was activated. According to Bob Turner, W6RHK, Section Manager of the ARRL Orange Section, "The net received some preparation reports from the San Francisco Bay area and Santa Cruz along with some maritime mobile stations with routine traffic. Orange County RACES checked into the net to inquire about tsunami traffic."

Ham radio operators are trained for situations like this. In March, operators in the ARRL Los Angeles Section [participated in a Tsunami exercise](#), simulating their response following large earthquakes with magnitudes 6 through 9 that appeared over several hours – much like this real world instance. Across the Caribbean, ARRL volunteers took part in the [Caribe Wave 2025 drill](#) the same month.

As mainstream media was covering the earthquake and potential tsunami, Nexstar Media, the largest ownership group of television stations in the United States, published an article across its stations' websites with [10 tips for evacuating during a tsunami](#). Number 6 on the list was to "Bring a portable radio or ham radio, also known as an amateur radio. Do not count on phones or the internet to work. Stay tuned until the threat is over."

The tsunami impact to North America was minimal at worst, and alerts were canceled by midday on July 30. Photographs from Russia show widespread devastation from the earthquake.

The 40-meter amateur radio band is a popular choice for regional emergency communications nets due to the ability to use near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) propagation, in which the radio waves go nearly straight up and are reflected over a limited area by the ionosphere. Many hams involved in emergency communications use NVIS antennas in their home setups.

About ARES®

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Amateur radio operators use their training, skills, and equipment to provide communications during emergencies When All Else Fails®. Hams serve their communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers, and wired and wireless networks. Amateur radio can function completely independently of the internet and phone systems. An amateur radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others. --ARRL

ARRL FILES COMMENTS TO PROTECT 70-CENTIMETER AMATEUR BAND

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) has filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to oppose part of an application that would impact the

70-centimeter amateur band for telemetry, tracking and command (TT&C) of satellites. The application, from AST & Science, LLC (AST), requests “unprecedented authorization to 430-440 MHz for a constellation totaling 248 satellites to communicate with five ground stations using up to five channels with up to 256 kHz bandwidth.”

[READ ARRL'S FULL COMMENTS](#) [PDF]

The formal opposition, filed by ARRL's Washington Counsel, asserts that the permission AST seeks to use the 430 – 440 MHz band “should be denied because AST does not demonstrate need for TT&C spectrum beyond that available within existing allocations.”

The filing goes on to highlight just how unprecedented the request is:

The Requested Spectrum Is Not Allocated for the Requested Purpose

The 430 – 440 MHz band is not allocated domestically or internationally for the requested space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space satellite TT&C operations. As others already have noted in this proceeding, signals in this band from AST's current 5-satellite constellation have been observed throughout the world, including in the United States, notwithstanding that the satellites are authorized to communicate only with five ground stations well outside the United States. From the operations by the current five satellites, it appears that the satellites at times have transmitted continuously in the 430 – 440 MHz band throughout their orbit, not just when in communication with one of the authorized ground stations. This activity defeats the purpose of preventing interference in the United States by limiting operations in this band to ground stations distant from the United States. Authorizing an additional 243 satellites to use this band, which would result in multiple satellites over the U.S. at all times, would effectively usurp this band's allocated use.

The 70-centimeter band is also used in emergency communications. As recently as early July, ARRL volunteers serving in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) made headlines for [providing critical communications in flood-ravaged areas of the Texas Hill Country](#). Allowing the 70-centimeter band to become overrun with TT&C operations could impact the ability for the Amateur Radio Service to be used in future disasters. “TT&C operations in the 430 – 440 MHz band are capable of causing harmful interference to radio amateur communications, including to amateur satellites operating in the 435-438 MHz subband,” the comments state.

The comments go on to outline why the application would be non-compliant with the ITU Radio Regulations Treaty.

Reply comments to the application are due by August 5, 2025. ARRL will continue to promote and protect amateur radio spectrum. --ARRL Letter

INT'L RESPONSE TO FCC FILING FOR HAM RADIO FREQUENCIES

Several International Amateur Radio Union societies and more than 2,000 individuals have filed their concerns with the US Federal Communications Commission over a request by a US broadband communications company' to use frequencies between 430 and 440 MHz for a planned constellation of 240 commercial satellites.

AST SpaceMobile was recently approved for the use of the amateur radio band on an experimental basis for a low-earth orbit satellite known as FM1, which is the prototype for the company's planned mobile phone connectivity from space. The FCC has assigned the callsign WP2XRX, which expires on 1st July, 2027.

The Texas-based company, a rival of SpaceX, is developing its network in association with AT&T and Verizon. SpaceX is partnering with T-Mobile.

The Radio Society of Great Britain, referring on its website to its own filing to the FCC, said that the company's proposal for its constellation has stirred [quote] "an unprecedented

response from the amateur radio community." [endquote] -- Jeremy Boot G4NJH (RSGB, FCC)

RADIO RELAY INTERNATIONAL AND ARRL SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® \(ARRL®\)](#) and [Radio Relay International® \(RRI\)](#) have signed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#). [PDF] The formal agreement, signed by ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and RRI Board Chairman James Wades, WB8SIW, outlines the value the organizations find in cooperation.

[SEE THE JOINT PRESS RELEASE](#) [PDF]

ARRL, established in 1914, is the nation's leading advocacy organization for the Amateur Radio Service. ARRL's mission is to promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and to develop the next generation of radio amateurs. ARRL's 71 Sections across North America promote public service with ham radio through programs including the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and the National Traffic System® (NTS®).

Radio Relay International® (RRI) was established in 2016 to enhance and promote effective nationwide messaging and emergency communications capabilities. Since its founding, RRI has developed an extensive work product consisting of a wide variety of training programs, a tested and evolved National Response Plan, and communications facilities designed to better prepare radio amateurs to serve their community in time of emergency. Central to these goals has been modernization of the NTS.

Both ARRL and RRI recognize the importance of effective public service and emergency communications, including the shared goal of modernizing and enhancing the National Traffic System. "Coordination between our two organizations will prevent duplication of efforts and ensure that both the public and emergency services agencies have access to effective NTS disaster communications facilities," said James Wades, Board Chair and Emergency Management Director for RRI.

The National Traffic System, created by ARRL in 1949, is a network of trained amateur radio operators who ensure the rapid transmission and relay of messages, or "traffic." In addition to basic voice and Morse code or "CW" communications networks, the NTS has recently been modernized through the addition of the Digital Traffic Network, as well as interoperable messaging gateways and specialized software templates developed in association with the Winlink Development Team, which operates an international radio email service well-suited to disaster response.

"Through last year's hurricanes and the recent devastating floods in Texas, we're seeing amateur radio continue to be a vital tool before and during times of crisis," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Amateur radio works When All Else Fails®, and traffic handling is an important part of that," he said.

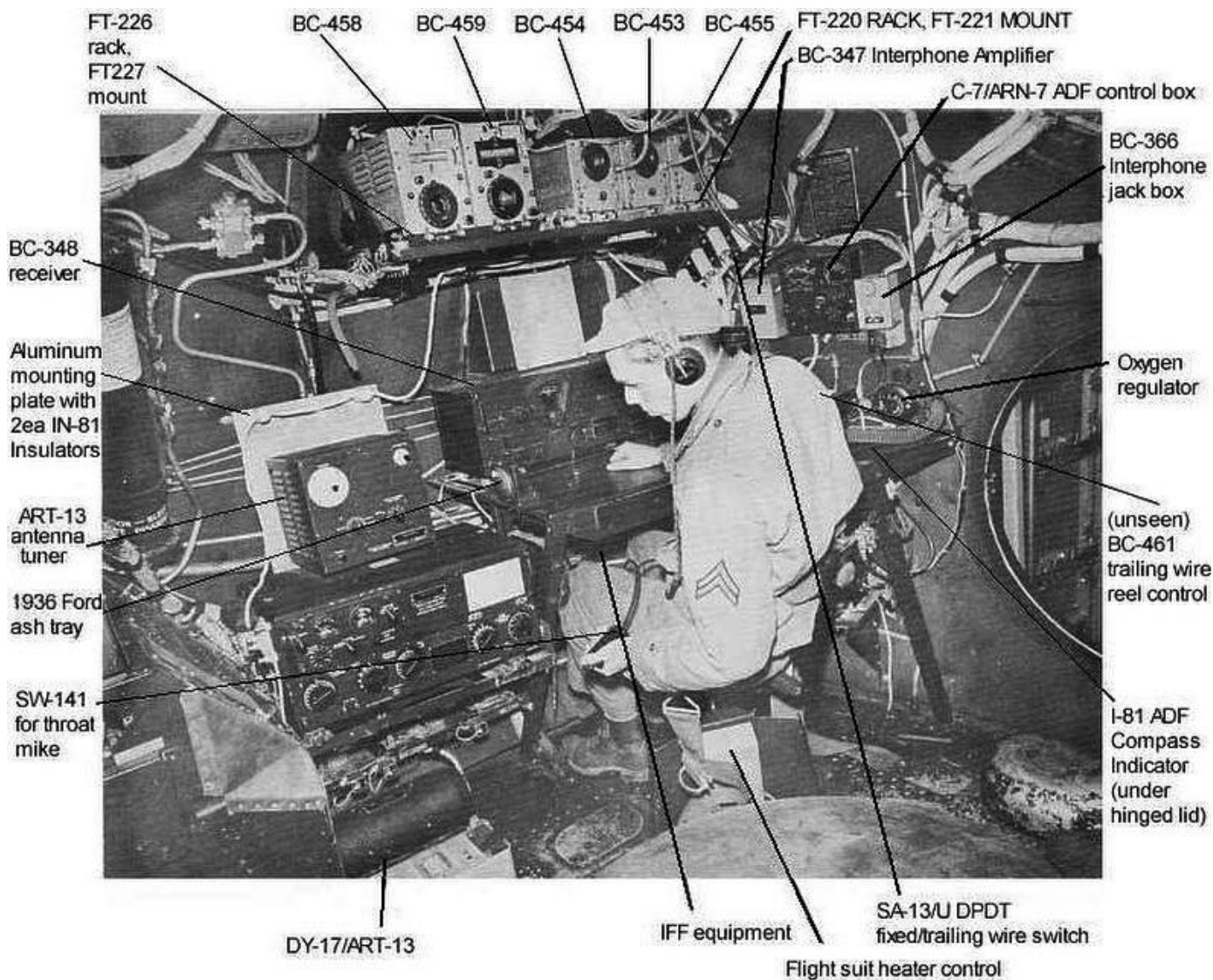
Future plans for the improvement of NTS include the development of additional robust HF digital networks, improved interoperability with local and state emergency communications organizations, and continued development of local and regional VHF and UHF digital "packet radio" network capabilities. Coordination between RRI and ARRL will play an important role in achieving these goals.

www.arrl.org/nts www.radiorelay.org

For more information contact: James Wades, WB8SIW, Radio Relay International Board Chair radiorelayinternational@gmail.com and/or Sierra Harrop, W5DX, ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager sharrop@arrl.org.

HISTORY

If you've been a ham long enough, you may recognize some of the things here you had in your shack at some time. B29 – Thanks PY6CJ



SHORTS

BOUVET ISLAND TEAM PACKS FOR 2026 TRIP --The Bouvet Island 3YØK team begins packing for the long trip starting in August, hoping to complete this part of the preparation by the end of September. According to their July 27th press release, equipment is being shipped from Italy, Bulgaria and the US to Norway where the team plans to meet later in Oslo for two workshops.

Activators expect to be on the island for at least 21 days. Their scheduled departure date from Cape Town South Africa is the 1st of February, 2026. The team is still looking for additional operators. For details, send an email to admin [admin@3y0.no.] (DX WORLD)

HAMTV BACK ON THE AIR FROM THE ISS --The most popular digital amateur TV show in space is back and better than ever. With its installation completed recently by ISS astronauts, HamTV resumed its transmissions on Tuesday, the 29th of July. In Salisbury,

Southern England, Dave G8GKQ was among the happy radio operators to report to the British Amateur TV Club that he had good copy during the first pass of the ISS with HamTV turned on again. HamTV had been out of service since 2019, so its welcome-back from Dave and other fans was clearly a warm one.

To see a live stream of HamTV when it is near the receiver stations, follow the link in the text version of this week's newscast at arnewsline.org --Newsline

THANKS FOR READING

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