



RCA Amateur Radio Club

Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club
www.w9rca.org

OCTOBER 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
6:30 PM AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, FORMERLY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
2100 EAST 71st, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RCA ARC NEWS

SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY – Thanks to all who attended the September meeting. Field Day and the possibilities of our final score being near the top when the official results are published in December QST. Greg, K0GAH, expressed an interest in becoming a volunteer examiner. The requirements to be a VE were discussed. Reminder, the upcoming VHF contest. Pros and cons of various logging programs was discussed.

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: October 11, 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

Oct 18	Hamtoberfest, Lynnville Community Center, Lynnville, IN
Oct 25-26	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB
Nov 1-3	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
Nov 6	ARRL FMT, https://fmt.arrl.org/ Thurs., 9:30 PM EST
Nov 8	Hoosier Hills Hamfest Bedford, IN
Nov 8	Indianapolis Monumental Marathon
Nov 15-16	Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Fort Wayne, IN
Nov 15-17	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
Nov 29	WVARA Turkeyfest Brazil, IN
Nov 29-30	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

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

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING UPDATE DURING US GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Original Story

10/1/2025

Updated 10/2/2025 (CORES is not available for new registrants)

Updated 10/3/2025 (Temporary testing procedures for examinees without FRNs)

A bulletin sent to members of [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](http://www.arrl.org)® included information about the impact of the US Government shutdown on licensing for the Amateur Radio Service.

The government shutdown began at 12:01 Eastern time on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, when Congress had not passed an appropriations bill or other plan to keep the government funded for the new fiscal year (begins October 1).

The Federal Communications Commission, which issues Amateur Radio Service licenses, issued a [Public Notice](#) on Tuesday, September 30, indicating that it would suspend most operations following a shutdown. "Aside from a few emergency and auction filing systems, all other Commission electronic filing systems will be unavailable to the public until normal agency operations resume," said the FCC Notice.

[ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator](#) (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said the FCC systems appeared to go off-line around 1 PM Eastern time on Wednesday, and are redirecting to the Public Notice. This means the FCC will not be processing any amateur radio license applications during the shutdown, which includes individual, club, and exam session (new and upgrade) applications.

"But ARRL Volunteer Examiners should continue giving exam sessions," said Somma. "Keep doing what you're doing. Keep serving new and upgrade candidates for amateur radio licenses." Somma also urged that Volunteer Examiners continue to promptly forward session results from their exams to the ARRL VEC.

"Please do not hold your session results. Send your sessions to us, and ARRL VEC will continue to queue all applications as they are received. Once the federal government reopens, ARRL VEC will promptly resume submitting applications to the FCC for processing. So, keep sending sessions to the ARRL VEC."

The FCC's shutdown notice indicated that CORES registration system would remain available for certain activities, but **New Registrations are currently not being accepted**. This means that **new applicants cannot register for an FRN**. This has created a temporary barrier for individuals who wish to take an amateur radio exam but **do not yet have an FRN**. Existing users can still log in and access their accounts and applicants who already have an FRN can test without issue.

Temporary Testing Procedure Without an FRN:

Given the current situation, **ARRL VEC will temporarily allow testing without an FRN (FCC Registration Number)**, with the understanding that:

1. The applicant would take the exam and receive a CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination).
2. Once CORES resumes issuing new registrations, the applicant would:
 - Register for an FRN.
 - Contact the coordinating **VEC** with their FRN.

- The **VEC** will submit their application to the FCC.

In the ExamTools system candidates without an FRN should:

1. Use **'0000000000'** (ten zeros), then select "I don't have an FRN".
2. Complete the session registration.

CSCEs will be issued to successful candidates.

For teams using paper exams:

Candidates without an FRN should **leave the FRN field blank** on all forms.

CSCEs will be issued to successful candidates.

This approach will preserve momentum for new licensees and avoid delays in testing.

Note: Other VEC organizations may also offer similar alternative testing methods. Please check with them directly for their specific procedures.

Please continue to check the ARRL website for updates as they become available.

The FCC's Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) databases are also currently unavailable to the public. ULS and related systems (like the License Manager, License Search, Application Search, etc.) are not accessible during the shutdown. Users cannot file applications with the FCC, or access license data, including address information.

To find an amateur radio exam session, please visit www.arrl.org/find-an-exam. For a list of VE Teams that offer Online Exam Sessions, go to www.arrl.org/online-exam-session.

About the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL VEC)

The [ARRL VEC](#) program has a long standing tradition of serving the Amateur Radio Service and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with integrity and expertise. As the largest VEC in the nation, the ARRL VEC operates as a knowledgeable information source for a wide-range of licensing services and issues. The ARRL VEC supports nearly 30,000 ARRL-accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who support the amateur radio community by offering exam opportunities. --ARRL Letter

ARRL WANTS EVERY HAM TO HELP US PASS THE BILL

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) needs every radio amateur in the United States to send letters to Washington as we continue our nationwide grassroots campaign to pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. The process is simple: click the button at www.arrl.org/HOA, put in your call sign, and press the red SEND MY LETTERS button. It takes mere seconds!

The letters will automatically be sent to your elected officials encouraging them to support the bipartisan bills. This legislation is intended to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas. Passage would give amateur radio operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

Spreading the Word

ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, [was the guest on the Ham Radio Crash Course YouTube channel](#). Host Josh Nass, KI6NAZ, spoke with Minster for 45 minutes about this important letter writing campaign.

ARRL West Gulf Division Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, shared insight into the importance of getting every ham to send a letter on the W5KUB Amateur Radio Roundtable podcast with Brett Glass, WY7BG, and Glen Popiel, KW5GP. See that discussion [on](#)

[YouTube](#), listen to it [on Podbean](#), or view it [on Facebook](#).

“You don’t have to be a member,” said Stratton. “Any amateur radio operator in or out of an HOA should go to the website.” Go to www.arrrl.org/HOA.

ARRL is also encouraging radio clubs to provide letters of support, and is urging each club officer to sign the letters. There are [instructions for clubs](#) (PDF) on how to complete the letter and a [sample letter for clubs](#) (DOCX) that should be customized with their information.

Send your letters now. ARRL

HAMS NEEDED TO TRACK NASA MOON MISSION

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is seeking volunteers to passively track the 2026 [Artemis II Orion spacecraft as the crewed mission travels to the Moon and back to Earth](#).

The Artemis II test flight will send NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU, on an approximately 10-day mission around the Moon.

Targeted for no later than April 2026, the mission will rely on NASA’s Near Space Network and Deep Space Network for primary communications and tracking support throughout its launch, orbit, and reentry. However, with a growing focus on commercialization, NASA wants to further understand industry’s tracking capabilities.

This collaboration opportunity builds upon a previous [request](#) released by NASA’s Space Communication and Navigation Program (SCaN) during the Artemis I mission in 2022. Ten volunteers successfully tracked the uncrewed Orion spacecraft on its journey thousands of miles beyond the Moon and back.

One of those volunteers tracking in 2022 was Scott Chapman, K4KDR, of Montpelier, Virginia. “Sometimes it’s what you don’t know that makes this kind activity interesting,” said Chapman. “All I had was a small S-band dish and receiver and wasn’t sure what I could or couldn’t hear...but when I started hearing the signals...it made everything worth it.”

Chapman said he felt good about the whole process and, while it was interesting, it was also lot of fun!

There were also other participants during the Artemis I mission, including international space agencies, academic institutions, commercial companies, nonprofits, and private citizens who were also attempting to receive Orion’s signals. Chapman added that NASA is also looking for commercial partnerships to share in the process.

If you’re interested in volunteering for next year’s event, all of the information can be found at SAM.gov. The response deadline is October 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM EDT.

GEAR PACKED FOR 3YØK DXPEDITION TO BOUVET IN FEBRUARY 2026

The 3YØK DXpedition to Bouvet Island has packed its shipping container of gear. The team spent the weekend near Oslo, Norway, getting things ready, including generators, tents, tools, and — most importantly — radios, antennas, and amplifiers. This checks off another large box on the to-do list before they depart in February of next year.

This international team of radio amateurs is aiming to activate the #10 most-wanted DX entity, Bouvet Island, in February 2026. With 24 operators, two camps, and a load of gear, they hope to provide a lot of QSOs to those who need the entity for their DXCC totals. Bouvet is in the South Atlantic Ocean, 1600 miles from Cape Town, South Africa, and 1000 miles north of

continental Antarctica.

ARRL Education and Learning Support Specialist Max Freedman, N4ML, is part of the team. At 21 years of age, he will be the youngest person to ever set foot on the island, and is the youngest operator known in a top-10 DXpedition. He is excited for the opportunity. "I have learned a lot being a part of the 3YØK team," said Freedman. "A lot of work goes into a DXpedition, more than most people think. It is an honor to work with these high performing ham radio operators to get everything prepared for February."

You can find out more about the DXpedition at 3y0k.com.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH: USE YOUR HAM RADIO FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Amateur radio has long been a vital partner with served agencies in providing communications support, passing traffic, and performing other tasks, both in times of crisis and in times of community service. Through community events, hams help out before and When All Else Fails®.

The best way to become a part of serving the greater good in your area is by joining your local ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) group. "Every disaster starts and ends at the local level, and so should community resilience through radio," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. "Local ARES groups are set up based on the needs of the local community and local volunteers are critical to making sure they are able to serve when needed."

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](http://www.arrl.org)® has a tool to help hams get plugged in with a group near them. An interactive map at www.arrl.org/find-an-ares-group will let those interested in serving connect with local leadership. This [flyer](#) [PDF] talks about what ARES does at the local level.

As September ends, the lessons from National Preparedness Month shouldn't stop with the change of the calendar. As ARRL Sections prepare for the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in October, being a trained member of a local ARES group will add to your personal, family, and community resilience.

READ MORE ON ARRL NEWS:

[National Preparedness Month: 12 Ways to Prepare](#)

[National Preparedness Month: Ham Radio Supply List](#)

[National Preparedness Month: Know Your Risk](#)

[National Preparedness Month: Have a Go Kit](#)

FCC ISSUES NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR UNAUTHORIZED ONE-WAY TRANSMISSIONS AND DENIAL OF INSPECTION

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a [Notice of Violation \(NoV\) to Mike F. Conte](#) of Naples, Florida, citing alleged rule violations related to unauthorized transmissions and refusal to allow station inspection. The FCC notice by the Regional Director, Region One, Enforcement Bureau, was released on September 29, 2025, and includes that Conte holds an Amateur Radio Service license, KA2FPZ.

According to the Notice, FCC Enforcement Bureau agents from the New York Field Office conducted an investigation on March 17, 2025. Using direction-finding techniques, they located and monitored transmissions on 7.200 MHz emanating from a residence owned by Conte in Brookfield, Connecticut that appeared to be one-way broadcasts originating from KA2FPZ.

According to the FCC, Conte was “pretending to speak with a station he identified as KB2VBO,” -- a call sign not currently assigned to any licensee. No station responded to the transmissions, and the Notice included that “Conte later admitted to an agent that he was engaging in one-way communication that was neither allowed nor exempted under the rules.”

In addition to the alleged unauthorized broadcasting, the FCC reported that “Agents were denied access to the Residence,” in violation of the Commission’s rules.

The Notice of Violation outlines two specific rule violations:

- 47 CFR § 97.103(c) -- “The station licensee must make the station and the station records available for inspection upon request by an FCC representative.”
- 47 CFR § 97.113(b) -- “An amateur station shall not engage in any form of broadcasting, nor may an amateur station transmit one-way communications except as specifically provided in these rules . . .”

The Commission ordered Conte to respond in writing within 20 days of the Notice’s release, providing a detailed explanation of the circumstances, corrective actions taken, and a timeline for addressing any remaining issues. The FCC emphasized that the Notice does not preclude further action if warranted.

NCVEC QUESTION POOL COMMITTEE REMOVES EXTRA-CLASS QUESTION E6D07 FROM USE

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) Question Pool Committee ([QPC](#)) has announced the immediate removal of Extra-Class question E6D07 from the Element 4 Extra-Class question pool and from use on examinations. The decision was made after it was determined that the question contained more than one correct answer.

The current Element 4 Extra-Class pool, effective July 1, 2024, remains valid through June 30, 2028. All Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) and examiners are instructed to remove **E6D07** from examinations as soon as possible.

Updated files reflecting this change are now available for download at the NCVEC website: <https://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release>.

The [ARRL VEC](#) advises the community to regularly check the [NCVEC website](#) for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

ARRL LAB HELPS RADIO AMATEURS AVOID INTERFERING WITH US SPACE FORCE RADAR

US Space Command headquarters is being moved to Huntsville, Alabama, known as “Rocket City USA.” The move was announced in a press conference on September 2, 2025. Huntsville will host the 2026 ARRL National Convention as part of the Huntsville Hamfest, but there’s a bigger connection between US Space Command and amateur radio.

Space Command utilizes forces such as the US Space Force to accomplish its command mission. The ARRL Lab supports the US Space Force’s Phased Array Warning System (PAVE PAWS) early warning radar installations which scan the skies for incoming missiles and space junk.

Since 2007, the ARRL Lab has been conducting this crucial analysis using Longley-Rice terrain modeling to determine if an amateur fixed station, repeater, or EME station is eligible for a waiver to be granted by the military to run more than the 50 watts of RF power on the 70-centimeter band currently allowed with a 100-mile radius of either the Cape Cod Air Force Station in Massachusetts, or Beale Air Force Base in California. “We want to ensure that

amateurs can exercise as many operating privileges as possible, while understanding the need for the Space Force to operate without interference,” said ARRL Lab Manager George Spatta, W1GKS.

The reports provided to the Space Force advise a “cone of protection” in azimuth and elevation at which the amateur would be limited to a power level which would not interfere with the radar.

Amateurs are secondary users on the 70-centimeter band and the ARRL Lab's cooperation with the military helps ensure we do not interfere with this vital function of our nation's security. As of this writing, the Lab is conducting this analysis for two different waiver requests. “It is an important part of the work we do to serve radio amateurs,” said Spatta.

WSJT-X USERS, NEW VERSION

A new 3.0.0 version of WSJT-X Improved is ready for download:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt...> It brings, among others, a new optional multithreaded FT8 decoder.

DG2YCB explains the new features here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKAgB0Tt6Ns>

[0:00](#) Overview

[0:44](#) WSJT-X Improved vs. WSJT-X

[2:07](#) Improvements to the FT8 decoding performance

[4:47](#) The new multithreaded FT8 Decoder

[12:52](#) Other new features

SHORTS

FCC VOTES TO ALLOW CELL PHONE JAMMING NEAR PRISONS In a move applauded by a number of lawmakers, the Federal Communications Commission has given prisons and other correctional facilities the authorization to use cell phone jamming technology to disable devices smuggled into inmates. Federal law prohibits the sale and operation of equipment that interferes with the operation of authorized radio communications, including GPS and cellular phones.

According to the FCC, the September 30th vote was taken to halt what authorities say are criminal activities, such as drug dealing or killings, being conducted by persons who are incarcerated.

The FCC said that its action would coordinate efforts between corrections officials and wireless carriers and is not designed to interfere with wireless services of cellular customers in the vicinity of the prisons.

The move drew praise from a number of lawmakers such as David Kustoff, a Republican congressman who in March had introduced the Cell Phone Jamming Reform Act of 2025. --Newsline, KCØDGY.

THANKS FOR READING

THE RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, K9RU AND JIM KEETH, AF9A. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.
