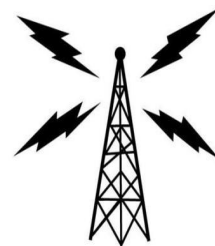




DFARG Signal



Keep the Spirit Alive!

In a world dominated by instant messaging, high-speed internet, and smart devices, amateur radio might seem like a nostalgic relic to outsiders. But as we know, it's far more than a technical curiosity—it's a community, a public service, a science lab, and sometimes, a lifeline. As we navigate through 2025, it's clear that amateur radio is not just surviving—it's evolving. Whether you're a seasoned operator with decades of DX logs or a newly licensed ham just getting your feet wet, there's never been a better time to engage, learn, and share. ARRL reports that license numbers in the U.S. continue to hold steady, with noticeable upticks in Technician and General class licenses. This trend suggests a healthy interest among newcomers, many of whom are drawn in by emergency preparedness, digital modes, or the sheer joy of building and experimenting. Worldwide, the amateur radio landscape is also changing. Portable operation, like Parks on the Air (POTA) and Summits on the Air (SOTA), have exploded in popularity. These programs combine the thrill of radio with the love of the outdoors, offering a perfect way to stay active and make contacts from re-

mote locations. FT8 has become a favorite among operators who enjoy low-power operations and chasing DX. It's efficient, narrowband, and can make contacts under conditions where voice and even CW struggle. But FT8 is only the beginning. JS8Call, VARA, and other modes provide options for real-time chatting, emergency messaging, and even file transfers. These digital tools have transformed HF radio from a voice playground into a robust data network. For those interested in integrating computers with radio, now is the time to experiment with Raspberry Pi, Arduino, or even full-blown SDR (Software Defined Radio) setups. The lines between amateur radio and computer science are blurring. One of the foundational principles of amateur radio is public service. Whether it's SKYWARN, ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), or RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), amateur operators continue to play a crucial role in disasters—providing critical communication when cell towers fail and internet connections vanish. Hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes remind us that infrastructure is fragile. When the power is out and networks are down, ham radio is often the last line of communication. Having a go-kit ready, understanding message handling, and knowing your local emergency frequencies could make a difference when it counts. Elmers play a critical role in our hobby. If you've been licensed for a while, consider adopting a new ham. Invite them to your shack, help them with their first antenna, or guide them through their first

contest. There's no better way to foster community and share knowledge. On the other side of the coin, if you're a new ham: don't be afraid to ask! We all started somewhere. No question is too basic, and most hams are happy to help. Though it might sound like science fiction, amateur radio operators are already communicating through satellites, including the International Space Station and AMSAT continues to develop and support a fleet of low-earth orbit birds accessible with relatively modest equipment. Some hams are also experimenting with high-altitude ballooning, mesh networking (like AREDN), and even moonbounce (EME) communications. There's no limit to what we can explore if we remain curious and creative. There are even conversations happening around long-distance communications on future Mars missions. Amateur radio may well play a part in interplanetary contact one day. After all, our community has always been on the frontier of innovation.

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Important Notices:

Field Day is 28-29 June

**July 19 picnic 1100-1500
in lieu of the July regular
meeting**

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June 11, 2025

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Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

06/21/2025 - Knoxville Hamfest,
ARRL Tennessee State Convention
Location: Knoxville, TN
Website: <http://WWW.W4BBB.ORG>

07/12/2025 - Cullman Amateur Radio Hamfest
Location: Cullman, AL
Website: <http://cullmanarc.com>

07/12/2025 - Firecracker Hamfest
Location: Salisbury, NC
Sponsor: Rowan County Amateur Radio Society

07/12/2025 - K4KDI Tailgate
Location: Orlando, FL
Type: ARRL Hamfest

07/18/2025 - 07/19/2025
Milton Ham Fest
Location: Milton, FL
Website: <http://miltonarc.org>

07/19/2025 - 52nd Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest
Location: Cary, NC
Website: <http://caryarc.org>

07/19/2025 - Greater Nashville & Middle Tennessee HamQuest
Location: Lebanon, TN
Website: <http://midtnhamquest.com>

07/19/2025 - MCARC Ham Fest
Location: Athens, TN
Website: <https://mcminnarc.com/>

May Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Senkowsky. The officers present John Seibles, Treasurer, Timothy Smith, Secretary.

The topic for our learning was Amateur Radio Astronomy, presented by Hap Griffin WZ4O. Hap had a extensive in the background of electronics working as a engineer for ETV Radio and TV. He had always had a interest in astronomy observation and photography. He is also involved with photography for NASA.

He defined radio astronomy is a branch of astronomy that studies the cosmic objects and phenomena by observing radio waves emitted from them. It utilizes specially designed telescopes called radio telescopes to detect and analyze these radio signals. This allows astronomers to study objects and processes that are not visible or easily observable in visible light. He talked about his observatory in the south of the state. He then explained that amateur radio and radio astronomy are related fields where amateur radio operators can contribute to astronomical observations. Amateur radio enthusiasts can use their equipment and knowledge to

detect radio signals from celestial objects, contributing to scientific research. Hap then showed several slides of his photography of the stars. He then gave information about his website. The whole lecture was very interesting and was well accepted by the membership there and online. He answered a deluge of questions; the program was enjoyed by all. Treasurer Report: Total in band \$4626.44, this month's expenditures were \$49.65 for gas and \$72.00 for the PO Box.

Secretaries Report: No Correspondence VE Report: Testing to be held May 25, 2025 at 9:00. As of this time 4 have signed up for testing.

Old Business: May 17, 2025 at 8:00am there will be breakfast at the Hardees in Chapin followed by a Fox Hunt.

Reminder that Summer Field Day is just around the corner. 28-June 29 the club shack will to open to all operators to get in on the fun. New Business: The past month's minutes were accepted as posted and voted on. All in favor. Approved. A motion was made and passed to sell the HeathKit 1500watt amplifier. There was little discussion as the HeathKit would be replaced with a 600watt

solid-state amplifier. Seconded and approved. Discussion was done about the club sponsoring a Swap Meet in October. There will be more information to come. July has been designated as our annual picnic to be held on the Third Saturday in lieu for our regular business meeting. All are invited to come arrangements to be discussed next meeting. A motion was made and approved that the club rent a 70ft lift to do the repairs to the antenna system. Being not further business a motion was made and approved that the meeting be closed.

Upcoming DXpeditions:

For more information go to <https://www.ng3k.com/>

Start	End	DXCC	Call
Jun25	Jul31	Morocco	CN2DX
Jun28	Jul14	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP/KV1J
Jun29	Jul03	Iceland	TF/N6ELF
Jun30	Jul05	Dodecanese Is	SV5/S55DX
Jun30	Jul05	Turkey	HA8LLH
Jul03	Jul10	Honduras	K6VHF/HR9
Jul05	Jul11	Mozambique	C94RRC
Jul05	Jul15	Grenada	J38DX
Jul10	Jul15	Cyprus	5B/WJ20
Jul11	Jul25	Iceland	TF/VE2XB
Jul13	Jul19	Mozambique	C93RRC
Jul14	Jul23	Svalbard	JW0V

Ham Humor



Upcoming Contests

June		July	
21		1	<u>Canada Day</u>
21-22	<u>All Asia CW</u>	5	<u>Venezuela Independence Day</u>
	<u>Six Meter International</u>	5-6	<u>CQ WW VHF</u>
	<u>LZ International Six Meter</u>		<u>Marconi Memorial</u>
	<u>Stew Perry Topband</u>	12-13	<u>IARU HF World Championship</u>
	<u>WV QSO Party</u>		
28-29	<u>King of Spain SSB</u>		The <u>13 Colonies Special Event</u> is 1-7 July
	<u>ARRL Field Day</u>		

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At its core, amateur radio is about connection—through airwaves, through mentorship, through common goals. It's about learning, experimenting, and giving back. Whether you're making a 20-meter contact across the globe, sending digital messages during a disaster, or just chatting on the local repeater, you're part of a tradition that spans over a century. So let's keep the spirit alive. Check into a net. Try a new band. Teach someone what SWR means. Build something that glows. Be the voice on the other end of the QSO that reminds someone why they got into radio in the first place.

License Examinations

The next exam session is July 12, 0900 at the shack,