
August 10 NC SECTION NEWSLETTER

1 message

ARRL Members Only Web site <memberlist@arrl.org>

Sun, Aug 10, 2025 at 9:19 PM

To: cmcguire10@gmail.com

GREETINGS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY

The weather up here at 3850 feet amsl generally has been cool, sometimes foggy with scattered showers but often hazy so far this month. The hard rains, with flooding, whenever they occurred, have been down in the Piedmont.

A local folklore instructs mountain people to place a bean in a jar each time there is fog in the morning during August. At the end of the month, the number of beans in the jar is counted and you supposedly know how many times it will snow during the upcoming winter. Six beans in the jar so far and counting!

ARRL MATTERS

The minutes of the ARRL Board of Directors meeting held on July 18-19 have been published and can be found at <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Board%20Meetings/2025/ARRL%20Board%20Minutes%20Minutes%20July%202025.pdf>. Actions taken by the Board include:

- Revisions to Bylaws 46 and 48 regarding ethical standards for Directors, procedures for handling questions about the qualifications and complaints about campaign statements made by candidates for ARRL elected positions. Also approved was creation of a list of independent third parties who will hear appeals from decisions of the Ethics and Elections Committee prior to a final decision made by a vote of the Board of Directors. The revised documents are appended to the approved minutes.
- Heard a report from the Chief Financial Officer and the Treasurer concerning preliminary data on League finances which remain unofficial because the audit for 2024 and a portion of 2025 remain incomplete due to the May 2024 Cyberattack that compromised many computer files including financial records.
- Designating the ARRL CEO and one Director to oversee the two lobbying firms retained by ARRL to handle Congressional and FCC matters in Washington. Previously there was an ARRL Committee that handled such matters.
- Heard a report from the League's FCC attorney David Siddall concerning pending matters before the FCC or Congress that affect amateur radio. In addition to antenna rules he reported on other topics that have been pending for several years but have not been acted upon. Congress previously had mandated that the US Forest Service levy hefty fees for transmitters located in National Forests and amateur repeater owners face relatively significant site fees as well. Attorney Siddall reported on several temporary experimental licenses issued by the FCC to business which authorize the businesses to operate in or immediately adjacent to amateur bands and can cause interference to licenses amateur operations in hf, uhf and microwave amateur bands.
- Heard a recommendation from the Administration and Finance Committee that ARRL dues and fees not be changed at this time.
- In recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States, there will be a new US250 Worked All States Award for

contacts made during 2026. Additionally, there will be a new 10 band DXCC award created.

- Authorized creation of a DXCC-TRIDENT AWARD which will be available to amateurs who have confirmed contacts with 100 countries on three different modes.
- Designated 2026 as the “The Year of the Club” with continuing emphasis on the importance of amateur radio clubs. Updates will enhance the ease with which clubs can report on the numbers of ARRL members belong to their club. Special recognition will be given to clubs that achieve 70% and 90% of their members also being ARRL members.
- Announced signing of a MOU between ARRL and Radio Relay International which will foster better cooperation between the two groups and increase the effectiveness of the National Traffic System.
- Engaged in a lengthy discussion about the long-term trends in League membership and asked the Administration and Finance Committee to report prior to future Board meetings about trends in membership and the proportion of various license holders who belong to the League.

Additionally, ARRL continues to advocate for Tech’s to have voice privileges on 3900-3999 KHz as well as 7200-7299 KHz, working with Congress and the Administration to pass a law that will override regulations set by Homeowner Association that limit the ability of amateur operators to erect antennas with the subdivision, having the FCC establish to issue rules for digital sub-bands to minimize interference to ssb and cw operations.

UPDATES TO THE ARES PROGRAM

Upon its invitation to join SAFECOM two years ago, ARRL began improving the ARES program which at least in 2010, if not earlier, publicly stated that ARES volunteers need not complete any FEMA training courses and that ARRL would issue membership cards and certificates for completing various ARRL EmComm courses.

No state or territory accepted the ARES training program as being equivalent to the Auxcomm training program which was created by the Department of Homeland Security in response to shortfalls in the training given responders that limited interoperability among response agencies. Identified problems included the incident management structure, clear voice and common terminology, standardized training by certified instructors as well as standard operating procedures and communications channels.

ARRL CEO Minster wrote an editorial in QST (July 2024) entitled “SAFECOM: A Seat at the Table and Why it Matters”. Significant emergency communications groups have been members of SAFECOMM for more than a decade. Not being included in SAFECOM limited the ability of ARES to fit in with emergency communications agencies and organizations.

Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (one for each State plus the territories and DC) communicated to ARRL that for hams to be included in the emergency response program, ARES needed to update its training as well as incorporating the basic FEMA ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800 courses that thousands of volunteer fire and rescue personnel in North Carolina as well as law enforcement have already completed.

Over the past two years, ARRL has been upgrading its EmComm training courses and created updated Task Books which document the training and skills required for ARES personnel. ARRL created three levels of ARES certification (Basic, Intermediate and Advanced) and has completed rewriting the courses and Task Books needed for the Basic and Intermediate levels of ARES certification. In addition to the ICS courses, ARES leaders will be required to complete ICS300 which is a course on managing personnel working in local emergencies. ARRL requires ARES EC’s to submit a monthly report on their activities and

hours spent on training by the local ARES team.

A related phase of the EmComm upgrades being undertaken by ARRL involves the National Traffic System. ARRL has created a monthly NTS Newsletter and is developing and testing ways by which ordinary citizens can go to a web site and initiate health and welfare traffic that will be passed over appropriate nets for delivery to concerned family members when they wonder if a family member within a disaster area is ok.

The steps and changes listed above have been developed by the ARRL Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee and approved by the ARRL Board of Directors.

Each of the steps is being undertaken to insure that amateur radio is viewed as a well-trained resource that can quickly mobilize and work effectively with the various Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) when disaster strikes.

TRAFFIC REPORT

Each month, Dave Roy (W4DNA, STM) reports on the activities of various nets in the Section. His complete report can be found at ncarrl.org. Thanks go out to Dave, the traffic handlers and net managers.

W4DNA SECTION TRAFFIC REPORT – JULY 2025

NET NMGR QNI LISTED PASSED TIME SESSIONS TFC %

SECTION NETS

CN AA4MP 367 134 117 585 62 87.31%
CSN KI4KZS 159 23 23 832 31 100.00%
NCEN WK4WC 354 97 93 416 31 95.88%
NCMN W3OJO 344 121 117 467 31 96.69%
THEN N3TLV 442 2 2 543 31 100.00%

LOCAL TRAFFIC NETS

CWTN KJ4JWC 363 91 91 490 31 100.00%
ENCTN W4DNA 158 22 22 281 27 100.00%
PCTN W4TTO 173 47 47 242 31 100.00%

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NETS

C-MNN KI4FAQ 458 0 0 373 31 N/A

TOTAL 2818 537 512 4229 306 95.34%

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 23 -- North East Tennessee Hamfest in Erwin at the National Guard Amory. Information can be found at <https://netnrc.org/netnrc-hamfest-2025/>
- August 26 –Exercise conducted by Duke Energy, NRC and NCEM involving the McGuire Nuclear Power Plant.
- August 29-30 – 64th Annual Shelby Hamfest “The Granddaddy of them All”, held at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. Info can be found at <https://www.shelbyhamfest.org/>
- September 27 – Lexington NC, sponsored by the Healing Springs Mountain VHF Society, held at [366 Livestock Market Rd, Lexington](https://www.w4par.org/). Info at <https://www.w4par.org/>
- October 12 – Maysville Hamfest, Maysville Community Building, [703 8th St., Maysville NC](http://www.maysvillehamfest.org/). Info can be found at <http://www.maysvillehamfest.org/>
- October 18 -- Winston-Salem, held at the Robin Hood Road Baptist Church, [5422 Robinhood Road](http://w4nc.com/). Information can be found at <http://w4nc.com/>
- November 16 – Benson – held at the American Legion Building.

This hamfest has the best hamburgers among all of the North Carolina hamfests. It also has an excellent flea market with used equipment. Information on the hamfest can be found at <https://www.jars.net/jarsfest-2025/>

ARRL SCHOLARSHIPS

The above mentioned ARRL Board minutes also contained a report that the ARRL Foundation had awarded 171 scholarships totaling around \$750,000 to hams pursuing college degrees. The scholarships that ranged from \$500 to \$25,000 are made possible by individuals who designated the ARRL Scholarship program in their wills or who made donations to the ARRL with the funds restricted to grants to students in the form of scholarship. Scholarships are paid directly to the college or university than the recipient attends.

Although the applications deadline for 2026 scholarships has not been announced, the deadline will likely be in December or early January with scholarship awards being announced in June 2026 for students who will be enrolled in an institution of higher education during the 2026-2027 academic year. Applications must include transcripts and other documents.

A later newsletter in a month or two will contain specific instructions on how to apply. Hams with kids or grandkids who are hams or hams themselves may want to keep their eyes peeled for information on how and when to apply.

CLOSING COMMENT

Before winter returns, I hope you will attend one or more of the several hamfests listed earlier in this newsletter.

In addition to hamfests, there are plenty of opportunities to get out and activate as a POTA or SOTA station (Parks on the Air or Summits or the Air, respectively).

Keep your brain working and learn something new by building an antenna or learn how to use one of the relatively inexpensive Vector Network Analyzers. Volunteer to be a Comms resource for the local Red Cross office. Get up with one of your friends and see if there is an opportunity to visit a local school and tell the students about ham radio while sharing the excitement of building a simple am crystal radio.

If you are in the Raleigh Area, consider volunteering for several hours to be a table at the State Fair (October 16-26) and tell those who stop by about ham radio. You will get in for free and you can wander around the Fairgrounds after your shift is over.

Last year after I finished at the contact table I spent a half an hour watching personnel from the NC Forest Service operate an old time saw mill taking trees that had been felled and cutting them up into rough cut lumber for building a cabin, shed or a barn.

Also at the Fair there were many different kinds of food so sample the seafood, cotton candy, pizza, sausage, or turkey. Maybe this year I will sample some different types of haut cuisine on the Midway.

Another stop before I left the Fairgrounds involved stopping by to look at almost every model Farmall tractor that was made, ranging from those with steel wheels up to more modern tractors. Many years ago, as a kid, I worked my way up from a Farmall Cub, a model C, Model H and then a Model M, I pulled disks, then a harrow, planted corn, cultivated the corn rows, stacked hay bales and pulled chopped corn stalks from a wagon into a blower filling up a silo. Later in the year, I climbed up into the silo and tossed fermented silage down into the barn for the dairy cows to eat.

If you want to volunteer for six hours at the Fair, contact Travis Russell (KN4WJL -- travisruss@aol.com).

Most important, regardless of what you choose to do, is being engaged and continuing to learn.

Best wishes,
Marv, WA4NC
Boone

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