



MONDAY DECEMBER 29 TOWN HALL WILL FEATURE 2026 *YEAR OF THE CLUB*

SEE YOUR EMAIL FOR LOG IN INFORMATION

ARRL has proclaimed 2026 as the *Year Of The Club*, with numerous events throughout the year to recognize and celebrate the 2,900 ARRL affiliated clubs throughout the United States. Modeled after the highly successful previous yearlong past themes like Parks On The Air (POTA) and Volunteers On The Air (VOTA), Clubs On The Air (COTA) will give operators and clubs themselves the chance to honor the organizations with the most direct contact with Hams in the field.

Joining the December 29 Roanoke Division Town Hall will be special guest Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL's Radiosport Manager and the principal overseer of Year Of The Club (YOTC). He will outline the components of YOTC and explain unique opportunities and deadlines for events within YOTC. Of particular interest to clubs will be two contests—best examples of club newsletters and websites. ARRL will showcase winners as inspirations for clubs to get ideas on how to improve their outreach to the Amateur Radio community.

Also appearing on the December 29 Town Hall will be Roanoke Division Web Designer Danny Davis, KD5W. He will discuss ways to make club websites more attractive and he will even include an offer for a complimentary consultation on your club's website.

With 233 ARRL affiliated clubs in the four states of the Roanoke Division, your club and its members will want to take advantage of the numerous opportunities to make your club active and shine. Be sure to turn to the next page where the *America250 WAS* event will be highlighted. Looking forward to seeing you and your club on the air in 2026 for the *Year Of The Club*.



YEAR OF THE CLUB TO INCLUDE *AMERICA 250 WAS* YEAR LONG OPERATING EVENT

Every State To Be On The Air Two Weeks as W1AW Portable

As part of the *Year Of The Club*, every state and American territory will host two sessions, each one week in length, in 2026. It is called the *America 250 Worked All States (WAS)* event and clubs will get the chance to operate as W1AW portable. America 250 is the campaign to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary-also known as a semiquincentennial -as an independent nation. In the designated weeks for each state, clubs can operate two ways, first under their club callsigns, and they can sign up for a time slot to operate as W1AW. *America 250 WAS* will be a Logbook of The World (LoTW) event only for logging, with no planned QSL cards.

Each state has a W1AW coordinator. For South Carolina it's Scott Putnam, KG9V, and for Virginia it's Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ. Coordinators for North Carolina and West Virginia will be announced shortly. Here are the dates for the four states in the Roanoke Division:

- January 14-20 South Carolina
- January 14-20 West Virginia
- March 11-17 Virginia
- April 1—7 North Carolina
- July 22-28 South Carolina
- September 2-8 North Carolina
- November 4-10 Virginia
- December 9-15 West Virginia

The schedule of states for this event is a spreadsheet which can be found at:



<https://tinyurl.com/zf2h9hz3>

The spreadsheet will be updated frequently so check this webpage often.

In addition to the basic *America 250 WAS* Award, there are three endorsements available—working a W1AW portable station in each state, working at least one ARRL affiliated club in each state, and finally a Triple Play Award by contacting all states on three modes: phone, CW and digital, for a total of 150 contacts (50 states X 3 modes).

At your next club meeting, spend some time planning how your club can contribute during your state's designated week on the air.

60 METER PRIVILEGES PRESERVED AND EXPANDED

ARRL KEY IN CONVINCING FCC TO KEEP BAND FOR AMATEUR RADIO



On December 9, the FCC approved the adoption of recommendations of the World Radio Conference-15 (WRC-15) for existing and expanded secondary use of Amateur Radio in the 60 meter band (5.3 MHz). U.S. Amateur Radio operators holding General class licenses and above can continue to operate on four of the five previously allocated channels at 100 watts, and there will soon be a 15 KHz wide spectrum from 5351.5 to 5366.5 MHz in which Hams can operate QRP at no more than 9.15 watts Effective Radiated Power (ERP). The previous channel at 5.358.5 MHz (center frequency) where U.S. operators could use 100 watts is now absorbed into the new QRP 15 KHz spectrum.

NOTE: Use of the 5351.5 to 5366.5 MHz spectrum by qualified licensed operators is prohibited until 30 days after notice is published in the Federal Register. At the time of this newsletter, that publication has not taken place. Best estimate of an effective date is expected to be late January or February, 2026. Until then, ARRL Volunteer Monitors (VMs, formerly known as Official Observers) are monitoring this spectrum and reminding operators that it is illegal to use this spectrum until the start date becomes effective. ARRL will announce the date as soon as it is known.

ARRL filed a petition for Rule Making in 2017 requesting the FCC to implement the WRC-15 recommendations for 60 meter Amateur Radio use. At one point there was concern that one or more of the five channels might be restricted to 15 watts. In 2024, the Canadian government made it official that Canadian operators could continue to use the allocated channels at 100 watts. ARRL strongly pointed the Canadian position to the FCC, arguing that this continuation of the 100 watt privilege on the four of the five remaining channels would allow for parity of privileges in the two North American countries. Hams who will operate in the new 15 KHz spectrum are expected to have on file software models demonstrating they are not exceeding 9.15 watts ERP.



AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACT GETS CRITICAL HEARING

On Tuesday, December 16, the **Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act** (HR 1094) was one of seven bills heard before the Communications & Technology subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce. While there was no direct testimony related to this bill, its inclusion by subcommittee chairman Richard Hudson (R-NC-9th district) was an important step toward moving the bill to a hearing before the full Energy & Commerce committee. HR1094 now has 22 sponsors. ARRL urges all currently licensed Hams—whether ARRL members or not—to send letters to their two U.S. senators and their U.S. House representative using ARRL's Grassroots Campaign by logging into the website: <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa> Simply insert your callsign, and everything will be handled for you from there. Over 100,000 letters of support have been generated, but that represents a small fraction of all U.S. Hams. More are needed! Please encourage club members, other Hams and even GMRS licensees to send letters.



Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ
Roanoke Division Director

Happy New Year 73 and

C U IN THE YEAR OF THE CLUB

Bill Morine, N2COP

Roanoke Division Vice Director

