

OFFICERS

Andrew Lawson, N2AL - President
 Michael Foley, K4MJF - Vice Pres.
 Bob Loving, K9JU - Secretary
 David Andrews, N1ESK - Treasurer

Nets

SMARC Weekly Net.
 Thursday 1900 hrs
 146.655 & 443.075

KK4XA Morning Net
 M-F 0900 hrs
 146.655 & 443.075
 KK4XA DMR 444.075-TG-314742

Club Meetings

4th Monday Monthly*
 1900 hrs
 USW Union Hall
 339 Hall Road
 Alcoa, TN 37701
 *Excludes June and Dec

Typical Gatherings

Tech Lunch
 Thursdays @ 1130hrs.
 Windy City Grill
 2641 Hwy 411
 Maryville, TN

Eyeball Net (Breakfast)
 Friday's @ 0830hrs
 TC's Grill
 2514 Old Niles Ferry Road
 Maryville, TN

Field Day 2024 — It's a Wrap!



Bob KK4XA

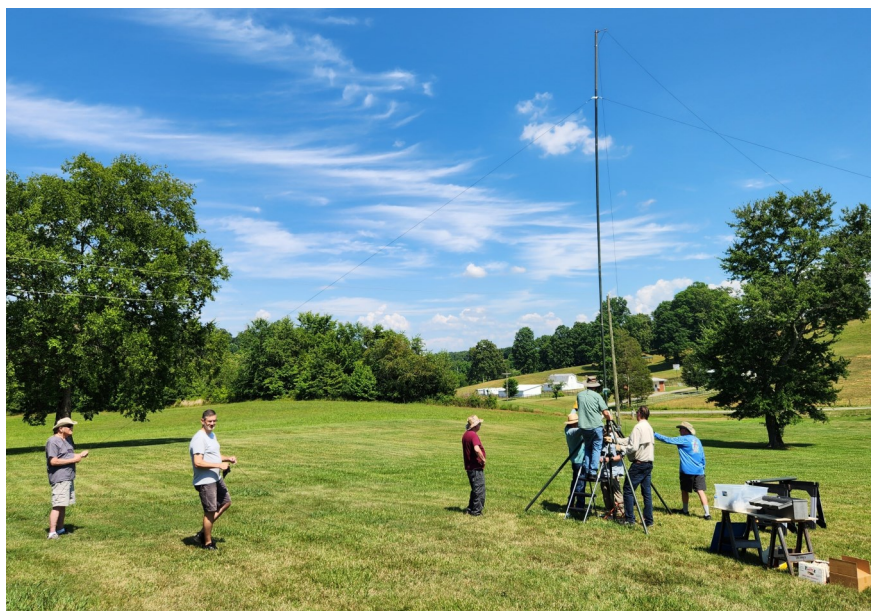
Field Day this year was a blast! One definite thing, it was blazing HOT!

We had a total of 5 stations, 2-CW, 2 SSB and 1 digital-FT-8 station!



Station Managers were: CW-Pete James-WM4U, 15/20M-SSB-Jordan Webb-NA4WX, 40/80M-SSB-KK4XA, 20/15-FT-8-Josh Marler-AA4WX and GOTA Station-W4W-Andrew Lawson.

We began with preset up on Friday which was the day to erect the massive tripod and mast for the 40/80 meter SSB station. Thanks to Kurt Meltzer-KC4NX, it was a very well engineered antenna assembly to say the least. At approximately 50 feet the dual band dipole performed like a champ!



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Smoky Signals

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The 15/20 meter inverted V was suspended from a tree support up about 45 feet with the help of many hands. Dipoles and Verticals were used for the GOTA and Digital stations.



The CW station operated with a vertical and dipole as well operating out of the Blount Co ARES Trailer. Thanks to Blount Co ARES!!



The generators were maintained, supplied and fueled by Bob Polk-KB2ENJ.



We began early Saturday morning with the station managers and their equipment being set up at each station and tested.



Operations officially began at 2PM eastern and lasted until 2PM on Sunday.



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Smoky Signals

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Melvin-WB5KSM operated his solar 2 meter station making FM contacts when he wasn't showing young hams how to solder and answering questions about radio and electronics.



Scott-N0EDV headed up 10GHz operations.

The CW station operating high on the hill had no interference and performed as normal throughout the night. Come sunrise more operations carried on with additional contacts that filled the logs.

It is always nice to see family members getting involved with the ham radio spirit.



After a long afternoon of operating, hamburgers/hotdogs were prepared along with side dishes brought in by guests and family members. This is the best time in my opinion. Good food, great fellowship and memories that last forever.



Overall the event was a success and as always a great exercise in emergency communication preparedness. Every year we always have lessons learned that continue to improve our operations every summer.

We look forward to participating again next year and continuing to grow our knowledge and passion for amateur radio.

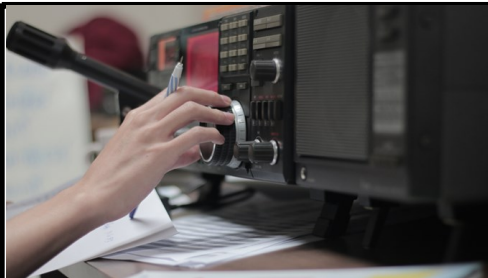
If you didn't make it you missed a great time. Hope to see everyone next year!

ARRL Field Day 2025 will take place June 28-29, 2025.



We dealt with some interference issues at nightfall from an arcing night light that flooded the HF bands with interference. All stations operating at the pavilion suffered until daybreak.





Contesting Roundup

OCTOBER

- School Club Roundup: Oct 21 1300z—Oct 25 2359z

NOVEMBER

- ARRL November Sweepstakes CW: Nov 2 2100z – Nov 4 0259z
- ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone: Nov 16 2100z -- Nov 18 0259z

DECEMBER

- ARRL 160m CW: Dec 6 2200z—Dec8 1559
- ARRL 10m : Dec 14 0000z—Dec15 2359z
- ARRL Rookie Roundup (CW): Dec 22 1800-2359z

Note: All dates and times listed are Zulu/UTC, unless otherwise specified

For more Contests, QSO Parties and Sprints check out the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](https://www.contestcalendar.com/) at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

Huntsville Hamfest Report



The Huntsville Hamfest 2024 is now in the books. Notably absent was MFJ and Kenwood (yet again!)

Hundreds of amateurs camped out in the popular POTA location Monte Sano State Park (US-1048.) A day-long POTA and picnic event, open to all, organized by YouTubers, was held on Friday, prior to the event and allowed many eyeball QSO's. Future events are already scheduled out for the next several years.

GigaParts had a massive booth with various items, including various “mystery boxes” available for sale. Larger items not stocked at the event could be ordered and ferried from their brand new superstore across town to the venue for pickup later in the day.



Ham Radio Outlet and semi-local vendor Chatt Radio also had prominent booths featuring stock brought along with them. Japanese manufacturers Icom and Yaesu had their lineups prominently displayed, as did Flex, Elecraft and numerous others.

The 2024 Amateur Radio Newsline - Young Ham of the Year winner was Grace Papay, K8LG, 18, from Holland, MI.

New this year was the W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention happening in Huntsville at the SIGNALS Museum, just prior to the hamfest.

A new attendance record of 5981 was set in 2024. The Huntsville Hamfest will return again next August 16th and 17th, 2025.

Upcoming Hamfests

DATE	NAME	CITY, STATE
Oct 18-19	Hamfest Chattanooga 2024	Chattanooga, TN
Oct 26	Ham-O-Ween	Evansville, TN

An ARRL-Sanctioned Hamfest

Hamfest Chattanooga 2024

Fri. Oct. 18 & Sat. Oct 19, 2024

Partnering with the North Georgia GMRS Network	Inside & Outside Vendors Space / Outside Flea Market
Door Prizes	Two FCC Testing Sessions
Radio, Preparedness, Skywarn, & AREDN Forums	Free Parking Handicapped Access
1 Mile from I-75 / Exit 1	Fun for All

Check Our Website for the Most Up-To-Date Info:
HAMFESTCHATTANOOGA.NET
 East Ridge Community Center, East Ridge, TN

Review of W4OLB Repeaters, Links & Gateways



Dave N9KMY

The Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club directly operates and supports two repeaters, with both located specifically to provide local VHF and UHF portable operational coverage. The VHF repeater was recently upgraded, while the UHF was only put on the air in the last 3 years. The SMARC repeaters are considered open and thus available for all amateur radio operators to use.

VHF Repeater – 146.655 MHz, 100Hz Tone

This FM analog-only repeater is on a shared tower located on Alcoa Reservoir Hill with site very generously provided by the City of Alcoa. It is powered by a LFP battery system, charged by AC mains, and capable of providing a number of days operation during a loss of mains. The controller has been programmed to not only provide voice announcements on this repeater but also the UHF repeater. A link radio connects with the UHF repeater.

UHF Repeater – 446.075 MHz, 100 Hz Tone plus 100 Hz CTCSS Decode

This Yaesu digital dual mode, FM analog and Fusion, is located on a water tower in Maryville with its site generously provided by the City of Maryville. The auto mode select of the repeater offers analog FM, narrow/wide Fusion and data. It is powered by a 200AH battery system with the charge maintained by AC mains allowing for extended operation. A Link radio at the VHF repeater site provides an-

nouncements and linking.

Repeater Linking

During all nets, and on demand, the VHF and UHF repeaters are linked, thus offering simultaneous dual band operation. The VHF repeater is generally linked to the KK4XA repeater operating DMR mode, which is co-located. This linking allows extended connectivity via the Brandmeister DMR server system which is worldwide. The UHF Fusion repeater has been provided with linking to the Yaesu Fusion network by one of our SMARC members.

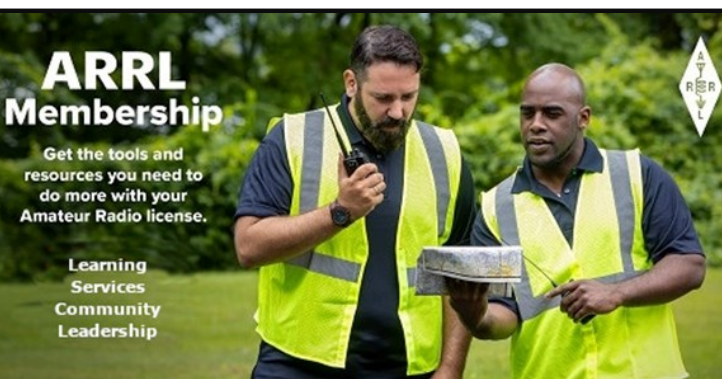
Technology Comparison

One of the first things learned by amateur radio operators, FM analog is a common method of communicating in a local area, easiest to program and with repeaters makes it easy to reach one another. The Yaesu Fusion digital mode is a form of C4FM and is proprietary. Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) is a non-proprietary digital standard and because it has wide spread commercial use, the radios are less expensive. The compression is greater with DMR than Fusion and thus the latter may sound better to most users. Both are available locally.

Hot Spot Gateways and Crossmode

There are means of cross linking DMR and Fusion digital modes, but this is accomplished by others with their servers and gateways. So what does this really mean? Devices defined as amateur radio hot spots are portable gateways between a defined digital mode radio and the internet. They provide a means for a radio's digital signal to be decoded and then use the internet for transport to a server.

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GET MORE FROM AMATEUR RADIO

When you join ARRL, you'll have access to information, learning, programs, & services to help you get and stay on the air.

Join today by visiting arrrl.org/membership or call 1-860-594-0200

SMARC is an ARRL affiliated club.

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This much like how one uses a smartphone to connect via the internet with a web server. This is how a DMR radio connects with a DMR radio. Note: Yaesu Fusion does not support hot spot to repeater connections.

Let's walk through a possible connection. Turn on a pre-programmed hot spot and it generally uses Wi-Fi for a connection to an access point to gain internet access and the intended server. Once this interaction occurs the hot spot is ready for the preprogrammed radio to connect. The radio transmits digital signals and the hot spot receives and codes after which it converts the signals to IP and sends to the server for delivery. The IP signal is then sent to its expected gateway (possibly a repeater) where the digital is converted back to the intended listener.

Summary

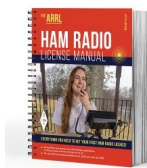
The three repeaters offer SMARC members and other hams in the area with the means to communicate locally with portables and through the generous support of two club members, the ability to have extended reach.

Stay tuned for more from Dave/N9KMY in the next issue of Smoky Signals as he continues with this series!



Online Technician Class

Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club will be holding a weekly Amateur Radio Technician Class Licensing course beginning Tuesday, November 12, at 7:00PM.



The class will be taught over Zoom. To participate, go to w4olb.org and click on "Join Zoom" at 7PM on Tuesdays.

The textbook for the course will be the ARRL Technical Class License manual, available here: <https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2003373064>

Online General Class

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio General Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, October 31, and will run through Thursday, January 9.

The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the [National Electronics Museum](http://NationalElectronicsMuseum.com).

Prerequisite is to have or be studying for the Technician Class License. Please publicize this with anyone you know that you think would be interested.

Those wishing to sign up should email **Roland Anders, K3RA**, at roland.anders@comcast.net.

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SMARC Shirts Available

I have had several people tell me that they wished they would have gotten one of the SMARC polo shirts that were available for purchase last year and asked if we were going to order more. The answer is **“YES,”** and it is easy to place your order!

I have spoken to the vendor about any price changes, and I am happy to announce that the prices have not changed from last year.

The SMARC polo is made with a dry wicking material, very light weight, is very comfortable to wear and easy to care for. Washing and care instructions are included with every order.



If you want to order a shirt, please make sure you send me an email with **“SHIRT ORDER”** in the subject line at the email address listed below, make sure you give me your name and callsign exactly how you want it to appear on your shirt, if you want a long or short sleeve shirt and the size. After you place your order, I will send you an invoice via email, with the total amount due, including tax. Before I place your order, I will double check with you to make sure everything is correct, as once I place the order with the vendor, it cannot be changed. There are no refunds or exchanges.

Payment can be made by cash or check payable to me, as the Club is not funding this project. Delivery will be made at the Club meeting(s) or at breakfast, is local only! If you are out of state, or outside of the Greater Knoxville area, you are responsible for postage and shipping to your address!

TAXES WILL BE ADDED TO ALL ORDERS, AS I HAVE TO PAY TAX ON EACH ORDER

The sizes and pricing are as follows:

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, and I will try to answer any questions you might have. You can send me an email at k4mjf.1@gmail.com
Thanks for your time! I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike, K4MJF—SMARC Vice President, Net Manager

SMARC Short Sleeve Polo w/logo (Small to XLarge size)	\$28
SMARC Long Sleeve Polo w/logo (Small to XLarge size)	\$32
Upcharge for 2X	\$2
Upcharge for 3X	\$3
Upcharge for 4X	\$4
Tall Short Sleeve Polo (upcharge)	\$4
Tall Long Sleeve Polo (upcharge)	\$4
Add Name and Callsign	\$4



NWS Office Nashville Offering Free Weather101 Online Classes



Weather101 is a series of **FREE** interactive online classes to help the public learn about meteorology, forecasting and the National Weather Service in general. These classes will explore the concepts formally found in what was our Advanced SKYWARN spotter classes, plus **MORE!**

Individuals or groups will be able to complete the courses in the comfort of their own home using the extremely user-friendly computer program, Go-To Meeting. The only requirement will be speakers to listen, if you're using a computer. If you want to ask questions, you will need to have a VOIP microphone (this is not a requirement).

Each class can be viewed on a Mac or PC, as well as on your iPad, iPhone or Android device by simply downloading the **FREE** Go-To-Webinar app in the app store on your device (you'll need the Webinar ID number supplied in the registration email).

Topics covered include:

- Hurricanes • Flooding Radar • Global Circulations**
- Tsunamis • Satellites • Severe storms**
- Upper air soundings • Rip currents • 3D observations**
- Monsoons • Winter weather**
- NWS Storm Damage Surveys**

You **MUST REGISTER** in order to attend and there will be multiple opportunities to attend a session around your schedule. I do not think these sessions are recorded.

These classes are **FREE** for all ages, last approximately 1 hour, and could be cancelled on short notice due to severe weather or other circumstances. Registration is required in order to get notifications, reminders and updates.

You do **NOT** need to be a trained spotter, and **these are NOT spotter classes.** They are informative weather sessions to help the general public learn more about the weather. I took several of these classes last year and found them quite informative.

Go here for the schedule and registration info: <https://www.weather.gov/ohx/weather101>

The World of DX

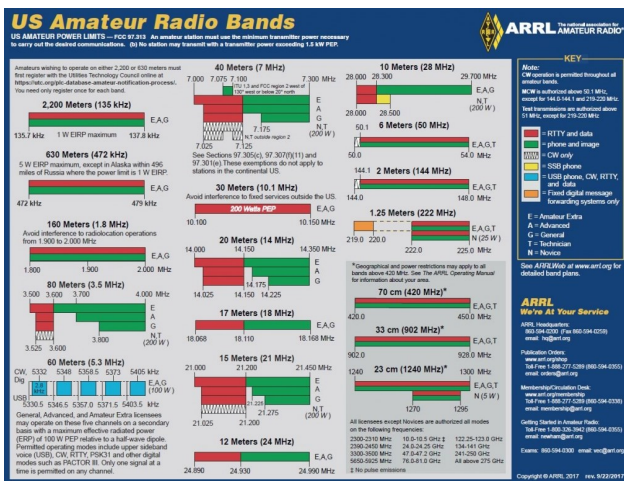
Hello again fellow SMARC members. Welcome back to the fascinating world of DX.



Bob K9JU

In the very first World of DX column, I explained some of the facets and terms used in DX. The second column outlined some ways you can get started in this popular facet of the hobby. The third/previous column showed some tips on working DX stations that are not in a contest. The column for this issue of the newsletter will implore the Technician Class Amateur Radio operators (“Techs”) to use your HF privileges on the 10M band.

First, just which overall High Frequency (HF, 3- to 30-MHz) privileges do Techs have? You are limited and it is a good incentive to upgrade to at least the General Class license to expand your HF bands and modes of usage. Here is a breakdown from the ARRL “US Amateur Radio Bands.” You can download the chart from <http://www.arrl.org/graphical-frequency-allocations>. Here is a sample of the chart:



OK, it is very blurry but the PDF image from the ARRL is sharp and you can print a copy to keep nearby your operating position at your home and mobile stations. For your edification, here are summaries of the Technician Class HF privileges; in all cases, the maximum output power at the antenna connector of the transceiver (or an external amplifier) is 200-Watts:

On the 80M band, you are limited to Morse Code

(“CW”) from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz. Note that you do **not** have any digital or phone privileges on this band.

On the 40M band, you are limited to CW from 7.025 to 7.125 MHz. Again, note that you do **not** have any digital or phone privileges on this band.

On the 15M band, you are limited to CW from 21.025 to 21.200 MHz. Again, note that you do **not** have any digital or phone privileges on this band.

Before I continue to the 10M band, it must be emphasized that in the segments authorized for Techs in the above three bands the only emission type is A1A (CW). Technicians have absolutely **no** privileges on the 160M, 30M, 20M, 17M and 12M bands.

Now to the meat of the subject, Technician Class operator privileges on the 10M band. We will assume that you are using a modern transceiver with a stable and accurate frequency generation system that uses a digital display.

The frequency operating range for Techs is 28.000 to 28.500 MHz. The 10M band is quite a bit wider than this segment, extending all the way to 29.700 MHz. Despite your smaller segment, there is a lot of DX to be contacted (“worked”) between 28.000 and 28.500 MHz.

As with the 80M, 40M and 15M bands, Techs may transmit CW (Morse Code) in the frequency segment from 28.000 to 28.500 MHz.

With regards to data transmissions on HF, Techs may use 28.000 to 28.300 MHz. However, most 10M CW operation is generally from 28.000 to 28.070 MHz. With this in mind, be courteous to your fellow ham operators and please do not call CQ or carry on a conversation with your buddy using CW above 28.070 MHz or using PSK31, RTTY, FT8, etc, below 28.070 MHz.

There are various “watering holes” where one will find the majority of digital mode operations; for example, the watering hole segment for the very popular WSJT-X mode FT8 is 28.074 to 28.077 MHz. PSK operations start at 28.120 MHz. Most ham digital communications modes occupy from approximately 28.070 to

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28.200 MHz. You will find a lot of propagation beacons from 28.200 and 28.300 MHz.

The only voice modes authorized to Techs are SSB; J3E, Single Side Band with suppressed carrier, or R3E, Single Sideband Band with reduced ("pilot") carrier between 28.300 and 28.500 MHz. The standard sideband to use on the HF bands from 20M to 10M is Upper Side Band (USB). Keep in mind that if you put your "suppressed carrier" at 28.500 MHz, the indication on the digital frequency display of your transceiver, your sidebands will extend to approximately 28.503 MHz, putting your transmission "out of band" for your Tech privileges. The cooperative program between the FCC and the ARRL, Volunteer Monitors, may send to you a notice of such transmissions. Therefore, ensure the digital display of your transceiver does not read higher than 28.49700 MHz when operating SSB.

FM operation on the 10M band is **not** allowed for Techs, period.

Now that I've lectured you on the HF privileges afforded to the Tech license, albeit limited, why I am doing so? I wanted to emphasize the 10M band as being the only HF band in which you have data and phone privileges. Again, why? As a parent, the answer could be either "because" or "because I said so"! The real reason is "Solar Cycle 25" ("SC25"). Let me explain.

Solar Cycles are ups and downs of activity of the sun. A solar cycle is measured by the amount of sunspot activity extending from few or no sunspots, to many sunspots, and back to few or no sunspots. By the way, sunspots are areas that are cooler than the surrounding parts of the solar disk and appear darker. Sunspots are areas of high magnetic activity. The average length of a solar cycle is approximately 11 years. The length of a solar cycle can vary from a low of 9 years to a high of almost 14 years. The previous cycle, SC24, was 11.0 years long and ended in 2019 December when SC25 began.

From the previous paragraph, SC25 started 2019 December; we are approaching 5 years into the cycle. Solar cycles tend to rise more quickly than they decay. If predictions are correct then the peak of SC25 is nigh and should occur sometime between now and early 2025. For more information on solar cycles please refer to Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_cycle.

At this point, you may be saying to yourself, "so what!" The "so what" is solar activity has been high for many months in a row and the 10M band is alive with DX activity. Many DXpeditions are on the air and others will come on the air in the near future.

One of the propagation gurus, Frank Donovan, W3LPL, explains why 10M conditions are somewhat punk during the "summer season" between the end of May and the Autumnal Equinox, September 22 this year. [See any recent edition of Net Announcements at w4olb.org under "Files."] Between the equinox and mid to late May next year (2025) we should experience fantastic 10M propagation. I can attest to this as 10M was "hot" last winter but seemed to dry up in the June through mid August portion of the summer season.

This coming winter season, it should be relatively easy for Techs to work sufficient numbers of stateside stations to earn the Worked All Sates ("WAS") award. With DX conditions predicted to range from very good to fantastic, the DX Century Club ("DXCC") award is well within reach. Activity galore from all over the world should allow you to work and confirm contact with 100 countries/entities necessary for the entry level of the DXCC program. Both the WAS and DXCC programs are administered by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

From experience, the 10M band will open soon after sunrise and propagation is predominantly eastward toward Europe. As the day progresses, propagation swings westward with Asian stations tending to appear mid to late afternoon. Towards evening, look for stations out of the South Pacific Ocean area, e.g., Australia (VK), New Zealand (ZL) and the numerous Polynesian islands.

As with all aspects of ham radio, a good antenna makes working stations much easier although not shooting fish in a barrel easy. With high solar activity, you could hear signals on 10M with a paperclip stuck in the antenna connector of your radio but it won't radiate very well. I hope you get the idea.

Speaking of antennas, one of the members of SMARC has said on many occasions, "nothing beats a center-fed, half wavelength dipole for a simple, efficient antenna." The 10M band is a good example of bands to experiment with various antennas because a half wavelength dipole is roughly 16' long. Note that wavelength is usually abbreviated with the Greek letter "λ". The antenna is split into two 8' lengths where

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a feedline is attached. When hung between two supports about 16' above ground, the antenna will operate quite well in the directions perpendicular to the wire.

The impedance of a center fed $\frac{1}{2} \lambda$ dipole is in the neighborhood of 75 Ohms (Ohms is usually abbreviated with the Greek letter “ Ω ”). A 50 Ω feedline should be low loss such as RG-213/U. Another possibility for a rather inexpensive feedline is RG-6 that is/was used by cable companies. It has a 75 Ω characteristic impedance to better match the antenna and the loss isn't much greater than RG-213/U. Plus the RG-6 is smaller and lighter. There is always the chance you might find a usable length for virtually no cost.

Although the antenna, constructed and installed as described, will be close to 75 Ω at the center feed point, that represents a 1.5 SWR with a 75 Ω feedline (RG-6) at the transceiver end; this is based upon the design load impedance for the transceiver is 50 Ω . This is a better situation than the SWR of 1.5 at the antenna end with a 50 Ω feedline. Remember that SWR on the feedline adds to the loss of the feedline. Higher loss feedlines exhibit even more loss as the SWR increases.

If you don't have two or maybe three supports, the third one for the feedline, the antenna can be installed with a single center support for the center of the antenna and the feedline. The angle between the two drooping ends of the dipole should be around 120°. The feedpoint impedance will drop towards 50 Ω . With the 75 Ω feedline, the 1.5 SWR is at the antenna. OK, the situation with a 50 Ω feedline is reversed. With the relatively low losses of RG-6, a 1.5 SWR ain't that bad! Assuming your transceiver has a built-in antenna tuner, either situation should not present a problem with making the antenna work satisfactorily.

Until next time, get on 10M and enjoy one of the exciting aspects of ham radio, making direct contact with other hams across the globe and not on your local repeater using the internet. The conditions on 10M this winter season may not come again for a decade or more. Get your HF feet wet on 10M, Techs.

“73 ES GUD DX.”

Bob K9JU

Please email any comments or suggestions to "k9ju@arrl.net".

VHF, UHF and Microwave Musings, by NOEDV



Scott NOEDV

OK, y'all are on parole this month. I'm just going to give a brief report on my trip to the Huntsville hamfest this past August 2024.

The ham fest was interesting, as usual. I saw some neat radios for sale, but none were smoking hot deals so I came home empty

handed.

I only found one piece of test equipment that would have been good for me as a microwave guy, but I already own one, so no sense lightening the wallet.

A couple of my crony friends gave forum presentations on VHF and up roving (Chris, NV4B) and (Russ, K5RUS) gave a talk on his 10 GHz station.

After the ham fest, we adjourned and most of our

microwave group set up on the parking ramp at the Von Braun Center to operate 10 GHz. As a “not yet fully acclimated” Southerner from up North, I knew I wouldn't be able to take the heat. It was in the mid 90s. So, I went back to our hotel next to the Space and Rocket Museum and set up my 10 GHz station in our room on the 7th floor.

We were anxious to try Ben's (K4QF) unique propagation mode...TV tower scatter. There are a few large TV towers on the top of Monte Sano. I could easily see them from our room. We all pointed at the towers and easily worked each other by scattering our signals off of those towers.

Here is my setup...

Here's a link to a short video of the tower scatter:

<https://youtu.be/ubOKrePINW8>





EMCOMM NEWS FROM AROUND TNARES DISTRICT 8

Roane County EOC Dedicated in honor of Bill Farnham, KI4FZT (SK)



On Monday, August 19th, the Roane County's Office of Emergency Services dedicated their Emergency Operations Center to the memory of Bill Farnham, KI4FZT. Bill's family, friends, ARES colleagues and Emergency Management officials were on hand for the dedication ceremony. Bill

was a dedicated member of the Roane County EOC and a member of the ARES group. Bill's family, friends, ARES colleagues and Emergency Management officials were on hand for the dedication ceremony. Bill

Blount Emergency Amateur Radio Service (BEARS) is an active ARES group in Blount County.

This is not a club, rather it is a service group formed under the structure of the ARRL. ARES communications operators receive emergency communications training and offers communications services to such organizations as Blount County Emergency Management, Blount Memorial Hospital, the local American Red Cross chapter and other community organizations. All licensed amateur radio operators are invited to take an active role in this organization.

SMARC donated their communications trailer in support of the Blount County ARES group in 2019. A grant request was submitted to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) for funds to update the trailer and make some needed repairs. ARDC awarded a \$11,750 grant to BEARS. The trailer roof and floors have been repaired, the carpet cleaned and door repaired. The AC and DC power systems have been updated and new dual power lighting installed using LEDs. Exterior lighting was added that included upper and lower perimeter. The trailer is routinely used to

support local events which offer real life training for ARES members.

If you have an interest in ARES, the group meets at the Blount County 911 Center at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday each month and there is a regular Thursday evening Net at 9pm on the WB4GBI 146.625 repeater, tone 118.8

Monroe and Loudon County ARES join forces to support events

Members from Monroe and Loudon County ARES have jointly participated in several events in the past several years, and that cooperation continues.

Recent ventures have included the Run LoCo, Cherokee 100, and the Campfire Ministries Lazy River Float.



These events provide opportunities for ARES members to gain valuable real world experience for providing emergency communications.

Upcoming events include the Cherohala Skyway Fall Festival and the Campfire Ministries Live Nativity Scene.

If you or your group would like to participate, please visit the Monroe County ARES webpage at www.mcares.net or email aec@mcares.net

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The poster features a photograph of the NWS Morrystown building at dusk, with a large satellite dish on the roof. The text 'NWS MORRISTOWN Open House' is written in a stylized font. Below the photo are three circular icons: NOAA, a weather map, and the National Weather Service logo. The text 'WHAT TO EXPECT' is followed by a list of activities. The event details are listed as 'NWS Morrystown Open House' on 'Saturday, November 2nd' from '10am - 2pm'. The address '5974 Commerce Blvd, Morrystown, TN 37814' is at the bottom.

NWS MORRISTOWN
Open House

NOAA National Weather Service

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ⚡ Tour Our Operations Area
- ⚡ Informational Presentations & Demonstrations
- ⚡ Games & Activities
- ⚡ Guest Appearances From Other Local Partners & Organizations

NWS Morrystown Open House

Saturday, November 2nd
10am - 2pm

5974 Commerce Blvd, Morrystown, TN 37814

NWS Morrystown Open House Rescheduled

The National Weather Service office in Morrystown has rescheduled their open house. The event was delayed as a result of Hurricane Helene impacting East Tennessee and Western North Carolina.

Our Open House has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 10 AM to 2 PM EDT. It's free, open to the public, and designed for the entire family. Come by and meet our meteorologists, and learn more about weather science and safety. Learn more: <https://weather.gov/mrx/openhouse>

Amateur Radio and Hurricanes Helene and Milton

In the wake of the recent hurricanes to strike the southeast, we have some comments from both the ARRL Section Traffic Manager and the Section Emergency Coordinator. —Ed

From the ARRL Section Traffic Manager:

This is rather long. Take your time. If need be, read a while and then come back and read more. It has not been prepared quickly. It politically is not motivated in my process of mind.

I have wanted to write some of the positive use of Amateur Radio in light of the awful devastation from Helene. I was already doing some research when I heard AI-N1ATS from Cumberland County say the following: "On Tuesday I was watching channel 10 news and the commentator was having a conversation with another announcer on the radio station on 750 AM. in one of the flooded areas. He stated that there was no cell service, no power, no water and at that time most were not able to go anywhere. He further stated that the only information on the flooding and problems around his area was coming from HAM operators that were around different parts of the area concerned. He stated if it was not for them there would be no information that he could forward to his listeners and anyone else that needed to know. He reiterated more than once that hams were his only incoming communication on the flooding and destruction."

That tells the exciting story of what we sometimes do. With that let me list a few websites that I have researched to find what Amateur Radio has done/doing some of which contains video other may be news print. The **Knox Sentinel** "may" early on led the way for Tennessee.

<https://www.cbs17.com/news/local-news/triangle-families-desperate-to-reach-loved-ones-missing-after-helene-ham-radio-operators-help-relay-messages/>

https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/1frtvsk/help_contact_operators_in_helene_flood_zone/

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article293361644.html>

<https://www.wcnc.com/article/weather/hurricane/helene/ham-radio-helene-recovery-north->

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[carolina/275-a905e9cd-5b86-48ff-b4b5-f0e4546115dd](https://www.wbvtv.com/2024/10/01/times-devastation-many-turn-old-school-tech-keep-communication-lines-open/)

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And there are dozens more. I may not endorse language that may be used but the true story remains. I also want to commend the governor of Florida for his actions including North Carolina.

Please note:

From His official website “Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida is rapidly deploying recovery assistance to North Carolina and Tennessee to help with Hurricane Helene’s impacts in Operation Blue Ridge. This multi-state agency response will include the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida State Guard, Florida National Guard, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Florida Law Enforcement Coordination Task Force, and a Law Enforcement Strike Team. Additionally, today Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Floridians seeking rescue in Western North Carolina will be aided by the State of Florida.”

Florida was prepared. Louisiana, Alabama and Texas were prepared. Tennessee was prepared in that TDOT started loading sending equipment to start recovery with plans in hand. I’m not sure N Carolina was prepared according to reports from their governor which were public also.

These are positive reports where Amateur Radio have played an important role. Amateur Radio operators in Tennessee have been doing Off the Grid programs once each quarter to help prepare for communication emergencies in our state. Notice in all the news events phrases like no communications, no cell phones and no internet. Amateur Radio the only communication available.

73/WD4LAR/Harrell
TN STM

From the TN ARES Section Emergency Coordinator:

TN ARES and other amateur operators in TN have been active in the response and their services have been welcomed by AHJs across East TN. The Helene response for the amateur community is dramatically underscoring several points for consideration by the TN ARES. The League and its elected officers regarding emergency communications.

1. Amateurs cannot self-deploy.
2. We are not first responders although an AHJ may include us in the first response.
3. ARES training, as currently configured, will not automatically qualify an operator to be included in a local, State or Federal response.
4. Local , State and Federal AHJs are the final arbiters for who will join their coordinated teams.
5. The AUXC position is emerging as the preferred training suite for amateur RADOs who wish to serve in a public safety environment.
6. TN ARES is preparing an amateur radio operator training continuum that will allow individuals and ARES groups to determine what training they will need for the communications services they wish to perform in a selected environment (i.e. community, local EMA/public safety, State EMA/public safety, Federal).
7. Vetting is required in most service environments and will become a requirement for membership in TN ARES.
8. The amateur in amateur radio is often assumed to mean unprofessional in the eyes of potential AHJs. This perception can only be overcome through relationship building with AHJs. Demonstration of technical competence with the appropriate servant attitude is a prerequisite.
9. Volunteering for an emergency communications role in today’s world, even for the most experienced amateur RADO, without proper vetting, ICS training, AUXCOMM training, certifications and an AHJ mission assignment would be comparable to showing up to a baseball competitive event dressed in a football uniform. If you lack the appropriate training in the rules of the game (i.e. NIMS/ICS, etc.), required uniform, right attitude, even if you are an Olympic-class athlete, you will have diminished prospects of becoming

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an integral, productive member of the team
10. All facets of the hobby should be represented in the League programs. Each program will have its own unique interface with the environments in which they seek to function. Spectrum defense with the FCC, emergency communications in the public sectors, education in STEM/STEAM, and so on. A thorough understanding of the regulatory, cultural, and other constraints for that environment must be understood prior to devising a programmatic solution for their perceived needs.

11. The wolves of commercialization are always knocking at the FCC's door. Without connected representation defending amateur spectrum, there will surely be losses of the spectrum. Failure to use the allocated amateur spectrum will provide fuel to the arguments of those who contend the spectrum is underutilized and should be auctioned for the greater good. (I'm drifting off topic. Not on the EMCOMM spectrum, but important.

I look forward to working with all interested parties in the development of a path forward for ARES training and response in Tennessee and the development of

an improved understanding of the appropriate roles for digital and voice means of traffic handling with the 3.980 nets and the TN Traffic Manager.

Thanks again to Harrell for bringing this and other sources of relevant information to our attention.

73
Jim, AJ4NO
TN ARES SEC

If your ARES, EmComm group or other organization has news of interest, please send it to: info@w4olb.org

We encourage everyone to check into their local ARES Nets!

Knox County ARES/METERS - 146.940—Mon at 19:00 ET

Blount County — 146.625—Thu at 21:00 ET

Roane County—147.015—Tue at 20:00 ET

Monroe County—147.315—Wed at 20:00 ET

Sevier County— 146.850—Wed at 20:00 ET

Anderson County—147.150—Thu at 19:00 ET

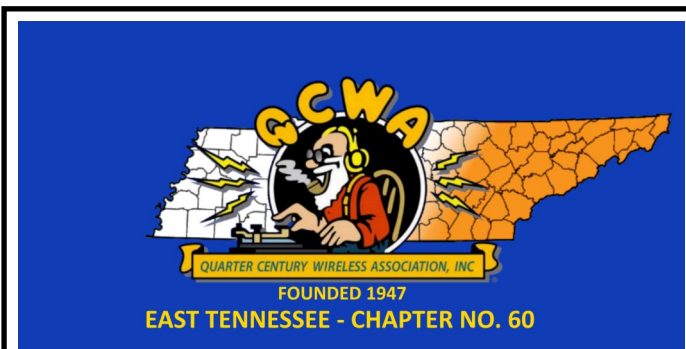
Loudon County—146.685— Thu at 20:00 ET

Tennessee ARES District 8 is one of the largest districts in the state of Tennessee. District 8 comprises of 16 (sixteen) counties in East Tennessee:

Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier and Union.

These align with the TEMA district. The TN ARES District is further sub-divided into 4 (four) distinct areas to provide for better coverage and coordination of activities between neighboring counties:

- Area 1:** Anderson, Campbell, Morgan and Scott
- Area 2:** Blount, Loudon, Monroe, and Roane
- Area 3:** Claiborne, Grainger, Hamblen and Union
- Area 4:** Cocke, Jefferson, Knox and Sevier



QCWA is an *international* organization open to **all** amateurs first licensed 25 years or more ago. *You need not be continuously licensed!*

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<https://www.qcwa60.org>

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