



ARRL Tennessee Section Newsletter – February 2026

From Our Section Manager



I'm writing this on Groundhog Day, February 2. After a couple of weeks of ice and snow across the Volunteer State, I was really hoping that darn groundhog wouldn't see his shadow this morning, but it appears he did. If you believe in such prognostications, it looks like we have another 6 weeks of winter to go. I sure hope the next 6 weeks won't be as bad as the last few days!

I have spoken with several members in middle and western TN who are still without power, many who lost antennas due to ice accumulation, and some who have suffered damage to their homes. Let's keep those folks in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.

The ARRL has designated 2026 as the "Year of the Club", a year-long series of events and programs to recognize and celebrate the backbone of the league: local amateur radio clubs. You'll be hearing a lot about this throughout the year, but for the moment, I'd like mention one very special event.

W1AW will be operating portable in all 50 states this year in conjunction with the Year of the Club and the "America 250 Worked All States" operating event recognizing our nations 250th anniversary. In the Tennessee Section, W1AW will be operating portable June 10-17 and again September 16-23. We are excited to have Cathy Goodrich W4CMG as the event coordinator for the state. TN Section Cabinet Officials will be reaching out to clubs from across Tennessee in February and March to get operating times scheduled for all ARRL affiliated clubs, but don't worry, there will be plenty of time slots available for individual operators to operate from home as W1AW. Look for more information in the next edition of the newsletter.

In closing, I'd like to welcome Sky McCracken KO4DKI as our new Public Information Coordinator. Many of you know Sky from his work as one of our Net Managers for the Tennessee Phone Net. He replaces Dale Knight AB4DK, who has held that post since 2020. Dale will remain as the Public Information Coordinator for Tennessee ARES and the District 8 DEC for ARES. We thank

Dale for his service to the Section and Sky for his willingness to serve the league.

Thanks and 73,

*David Thomas / KM4NYI
Section Manager
ARRL Tennessee Section*

Meet Your New Public Information Coordinator

My name is Sky McCracken/KO4DKI, and I was recently appointed as the Tennessee Section Public Information Coordinator, succeeding Dale Knight/AB4DK after his many years of faithful service. My goals are (1) to provide the section with a regular newsletter, and (2) get information out and across the state. To do both of those things I need your help: please send me newsworthy items and high-res pictures from your club or area events so we can know about them and you! This *is* the year of the club, and we want to know what your club is doing!



You can contact me at ko4dki@gmail.com, and I can be reached by cell at 270.210.7743. I look forward to hearing from you!

Southeast Amateur Radio Conference



The Cleveland Amateur Radio Club hosted this on January 17th. Guest speakers included our Tennessee



ARRL Section Manager, David Thomas/KM4NYI, and our Tennessee ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Snyder/AJ4NO. Also present were ARES officials from North Carolina and Alabama, TEMA, Homeland Security, and Georgia Emergency Management. Over 100 Amateur Radio folks from 4 states were in attendance.

The Cleveland ARC does this event every January. Steve Webber/KA4ELN is the Tennessee ARES District 7 DEC and President of the Cleveland ARC. You can contact the Cleveland ARC at info@carc.cc.

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) celebrated its 90th anniversary last year. ARES offers to the public and to its partners trained, federally licensed operators who are skilled in applying a wide range of effective emergency/disaster communications techniques and who are committed to supporting our partners' missions in service to the public. Find out more at <https://www.arrrl.org/ares>.

TN Hamfests/Conventions



The Greeneville Hamfest website gives a great definition of a *hamfest*: “Although a Hamfest is a get-together of amateur radio operators, many experimenters, makers, and those that have other interests besides amateur radio also attend. One never knows what may appear in the outdoor flea market, often referred to as “The Boneyard.” Boxes full

of “junk” can be waiting to be prowled through and the meaning of “one man’s junk is another man’s treasure” sometimes comes true.

Tennessee Hamfest Dates:

- 3/13-3/14 MTARS Hamfest - Tullahoma, TN. <https://qsl.net/mtars/events/2026%20Hamfest%20Flyer.pdf>
- 4/11 1st Annual Mid-South Amateur Radio Expo – Agricenter International in Memphis. <https://deltaclub.org/expo>
- 4/18 Greeneville Hamfest – Greenville, TN. <https://greenevillehamfest.com>
- 6/13 Knoxville Hamfest, ARRL Convention – Knoxville, TN. <https://www.w4bbb.org/knoxville-hamfest>
- 9/19 W4DXCC by SEDCO – Pigeon Forge, TN. <https://www.w4dxcc.org>

Dates of other hamfests can be found at <https://www.arrrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>. The Convention and Hamfest Calendar that runs in *QST* each month also presents information about upcoming events. If your club is wanting to host a convention, hamfest, tailgate, or swapfest, please consider applying for it to be an ARRL-sanctioned event. To learn what it means to be an ARRL sanctioned event, and to get some ideas on how to plan for and conduct a hamfest or convention, visit <https://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-sanctioned-events> for a planner and all the rules. To

have your event sanctioned, complete the online application at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application>.

Tennessee MTEARS

Have You Checked in Lately?



MTEARS is the Middle Tennessee Emergency Amateur Repeater System. It is a network of UHF repeaters that serves as a liaison during severe weather events, allowing storm spotters to report weather conditions to the National Weather Service (NWS). The system is designed to facilitate communication and provide warnings and updates on severe weather events, ensuring that emergency responders and citizens can stay informed.

There are dedicated MTEARS UHF-only linked repeaters across TN serving as a liaison network during severe weather. Individual storm spotters continue to use their local frequencies and report weather conditions to their local organization. When an organization receives a report of a tornado, funnel cloud, or other severe weather criteria (such as hail 0.75 inches in diameter or larger, or winds greater than 57 mph), a liaison from the local spotter organization relays the report to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Amateur radio operators at the National Weather Service Office provide warnings, weather summaries, and radar information to the liaisons, who then pass the information on to their local networked spotters and citizens are encouraged to monitor these frequencies, but to limit traffic on this network to criteria specific damage reports.

A number of meteorologists at the National Weather Service Nashville office are amateur radio operators and communicate with the spotters on the MTEARS Repeater Link System. Routinely, when MTEARS goes active due to weather conditions, Net Control Operators will monitor the network for damage reports and report NWS updates to counties being affected. For more information go to: <https://mtears.org/>. There you will find detailed information concerning repeaters, maps, and updated status of the system. This is another great service to our state residents involving amateur radio operators.

Handy ARRL Links

- ARRL Homepage: www.arrl.org
- ARRL Property/Liability Club and Personal Insurance: <https://www.arrlinsurance.com/>
- RF assessments: <http://www.arrl.org/rf-exposure>

- Find an ARRL Affiliated Club: www.arrl.org/clubs
- Find a license class in your area: www.arrl.org/class
- Find a license exam in your area: www.arrl.org/exam

Tennessee Section Annual Traffic Seminar

As Tennessee Section Traffic manager, I oversee several nets not often wrote about or talked about in general. I would like to give a shout out to three of these.

First our CW Net. Bruce-AC4G is the CW Net Manager and he does a fantastic job in keeping the net going. They meet Monday through Friday on 3562.00 khz. Every night they send me a report of the nights activity and I get to see firsthand those who are dedicated to use their “fist” and keep this net going at full steam ahead. I have the original red card that CW ops used to use for their “Q” signs which are very different from those used otherwise.

Second our Winlink net which is managed by Dale-W4WTN. I well remember he and I visiting at some length discission the possibility of starting and maintaining the Winlink Net. He worked out the details and went we started advertising-announcing and signing up Amateurs for this important net. Every month without exception there are over 200 hundred messages handled. Additionally, Winlink is the only means that FEMA and TEMA will accept traffic reports.

Last, the fun net, the informal net that meets Monday through Friday on 3980 at 5:40 CST.

I attempt to manage this net for those who like to start their day with a grin. We report our weather exchange pleasantries and have a good time doing so. Jamie-N3FA is the co-bus driver on this net and I am the other driver. We pick up passengers from all over the US. Most are from Tennessee yet we have many out of state daily. Once last week we had a ham out west two miles from the Pacific Ocean to check in was he was 5 9. If you want to have some fun join us anytime

*73/Harrell Davidson/WD4LAR
Tennessee Section Traffic Manager*

New 60-Meter Frequencies Available Beginning February 13

The new 60-meter frequencies approved by the FCC in December will become available to amateurs as of February 13, 2026, along with new

power restrictions on those frequencies. It's a bit confusing, as different rules apply to different segments of the band. The changes result from the FCC's action to approve a worldwide 60-meter amateur allocation made by the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 (WRC-15).

See <https://tinyurl.com/mt8p8jpa>.

As of February 13, FCC-licensed amateur operators holding General Class or higher licenses may operate on a secondary basis anywhere between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz, subject to a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz and maximum transmit power of 9.15 watts ERP (effective radiated power). For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP (peak envelope power) is multiplied by the antenna gain relative to a half-wave dipole antenna. A half-wave dipole is presumed to have a gain of 1 (0 dBd). Amateurs using other antennas must maintain in their station records either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Here's the confusing part: The existing 60-meter channels centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz remain as secondary amateur allocations with maximum power of 100 watts ERP. However, the old channel at 5358.5 kHz is eliminated as it is now part of the new 5351.5-5366.5 kHz subband and subject to the lower power limit.

For all 60-meter transmissions, emission bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz or less and amateurs must not cause harmful interference to, and must accept interference from, stations authorized by the United States (NTIA and FCC) and other nations in the fixed service; and all other nations in the mobile service (except aeronautical mobile). Data or RTTY emissions in particular must be limited in transmission length so as not to cause harmful interference. Digital mode operators must be familiar with offsets in order to stay within the authorized frequencies.

West Tennessee Affiliated Club Links

The following is a list of all the affiliated amateur radio clubs in the western half of TN.:

Clarksville Amateur Transmitting Society - Clarksville, TN. <https://kf4l.org>
Decatur County Amateur Radio Club - Decaturville, TN
Delta Amateur Radio Club - Memphis, TN. <https://deltaclub.org>
Dickson County Amateur Club - Dickson, TN
Hardin & McNairy Amateur Radio Club - Savannah, TN
Hickman County Skywarn Association - Lyles, TN
Leading Edge Wireless
Marshall County Amateur Radio Society - Lewisburg, TN.
Maury Amateur Radio Club - Columbia, TN. <https://www.w4ggm.org>
Memphis Digital Amateur Radio Club - Memphis, TN. <https://sites.google.com/site/memphisdstar/>
Mid-South Amateur Radio Association - Bartlett, TN. <https://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org/mara-online/>
Nashoba Amateur Radio Club - Germantown, TN. <https://nashobaarc.org>
Nashville Amateur Radio Club - Nashville, TN. <https://nashvilleamateurradio.club>
Reelfoot Amateur Radio Club - Union City, TN. <https://www.reelfootarc.com>
Robertson County Amateur Radio Club - Springfield, TN. <http://www.robertsoncountyarc.org>
Tipton Amateur Radio Society - Atoka, TN. <https://tiptonars.weebly.com>

Three Rivers Amateur Radio Society – McEwan, TN
Vanderbilt Univ Radio Club – Nashville, TN. <https://anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/vuarc>
West Tennessee Amateur Radio Society – Jackson, TN <https://www.facebook.com/groups/590731237754421>

East Tennessee Affiliated Club Links

The following is a list of all the affiliated amateur radio clubs in the eastern half of TN.:

American Legion Amateur Radio Club – Sevierville, TN.
Andrew Johnson Amateur Radio Club – Greenville, TN. <https://ajarc.org/>
Amateur Radio Club of the University of TN – Knoxville, TN. <https://www.utarc.org/p/home.html>
Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club – Huntsville, TN. <https://bsfarc.org/>
Bristol Amateur Radio Club – Bristol, TN. www.facebook.com/groups/w4udbarc/
Campbell County Amateur Radio Club – Jonesboro, TN. www.CCARClub.org
Carter County Amateur Radio Association – Elizabethton, TN. <http://www.wr4cc.org>
Chattanooga Amateur Radio Club – Hixson, TN. <https://www.w4am.net/>
Cleveland Amateur Radio Club – Cleveland, TN. <http://www.carc.cc/>
Cumberland Plateau Amateur Radio Club – Crossville, TN. <http://CPARC.net>
DeKalb-Cannon County Amateur Radio Club – Smithville, TN. <http://www.dccarc.org>
East Tennessee DX Association – Knoxville, TN. <http://www.ETDXA.net>
Hawkins Hancock Amateur Radio Team – Rogersville, TN. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/536078334756112/>
Johnson City Radio Association, Inc. - Jonesborough, TN. <https://jcara.org/wp/>
Johnson County Amateur Radio Club – Mountain City, TN. <https://www.w4mct.com/>
Kingsport Amateur Radio Club – Kingsport, TN. <http://w4trc.org>
Bays Mountain Radio Club – Kingsport, TN. <http://w4trc.org>
Lakeway Amateur Radio Club – Talbott, TN. <https://www.facebook.com/lakewayamateurradio/>
Macon Area Amateur Radio Society – Lafayette, TN. <http://MaconHamRadio.com>
Middle East Tennessee Emergency Radio SE – Knoxville, TN. <http://www.metersinc.org>
Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club, Inc. - Oak Ridge, TN. <http://www.orarc.net>
Off-Grid AuxComm Radio Club – Knoxville, TN. <https://off-gridauxcommradioclub.com/>
Plateau Amateur Radio Club – Monroe, TN. <http://parcltn.com/>
Radio Amateur Radio Club of Knoxville – Knoxville, TN. <https://www.w4bbb.org/>
Rhea County Amateur Radio Club – Dayton, TN. <https://www.rheacountyarc.org/home>
Roane County Amateur Radio Club – Kingston, TN. <http://www.ke4rx.org>
Sevier County Amateur Radio Society – Sevierville, TN. <https://seviercountyars.com/>
Smoky Mountain Amateur Radio Club – Maryville, TN. <https://w4olb.org/about>
Tellico Lake Amateur Radio Club – Lenoir City, TN. <https://tlarc.org/>
Unicoi County Amateur Radio Association – Unicoi, TN. <http://www.ucara.org>
University of Tennessee Amateur Radio Club – Knoxville, TN. utarc@utk.edu
University Amateur Radio Club – Johnson City, TN. info@etsu.edu
Wilson Amateur Radio Club – Lebanon, TN. <https://wilsonarc.org/>

If you see ANY incorrect or outdated information, or if this information needs updated, please (1) let me know at ko4dki@gmail.net, and (2) update your club information on the official ARRL page at <https://www.arrrl.org/club-update>.