



THE AERO AERIAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AERO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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Ham News

AeroClub Annual Elections

Be sure to attend the June 3 meeting at the Essex Skypark FBO to elect our club officials who will take office in July. You must be present to vote. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. , but come as early as 6:00 for refreshments and meet-n-greet.

Is Canada's CHU going off the air?

From National Communications Magazine

Learn about the history of the station and how to get a QSL card before it's too late. [Read about this station](#)

Meetings

JUNE
3 AND 17

Events

Manassas Hamfest

Date: 6/20/2026

Location: Manassas, VA

Sponsor: Ole Virginia Hams

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Father's Day Hamfest/Expo

Date: 6/21/2026

Location: Upper, MD

Sponsor: Baltimore Amateur Radio Club BARC

Firecracker HamFest

Date: 7/4/2026

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Sponsor: Harrisburg RAC

SVARC Berryville Hamfest

Date: 8/2/2026

Location: Berryville, VA

Sponsor: Shenandoah Valley ARC

Valley Forge Hamfest

Date: 8/9/2026

Location: Phoenixville, PA

Sponsor: Mid-Atlantic ARC

2026 Hamvention Wrap-Up

From ARRL

It's a tradition for Hamvention® ... it must rain for at least part of at least one day ... and this year didn't disappoint! [Get the highlights from this year's event.](#)

Lafayette Radio Trusted Americans to Build. That Was Its End.

From The History Archive

This is a place where Harry, AC3EK, worked in a previous life. [Watch the video](#)

Signals Without Borders: Hamvention 2026

From Amateur Radio Daily

Hamvention 2026 drew a world of kindred spirits to the Greene County Fairgrounds – and reminded us that radio waves have always been humanity's most quietly miraculous language. [Learn more](#)

Multi-Band Antennas & Inter-Station Interference

From VE3VN

Take a closer look at many types of antennas. [Read more](#)

Free Field Day CW Training and Practice

The Long Island CW Club (LICW) is offering focused Field Day CW training during the month of June. These sessions are open to all amateur radio operators. You do not need to be a member of LICW to attend, and there is no charge for the training. [See the schedule and access the Zoom link](#)

Apple Apps for Ham Radio

If you have a Mac, iPhone, or iPad, [check out this list of apps for ham radio.](#)

More Events

Red Rose Repeater Hamfest

Date: 10/3/2026

Location: New Holland, PA

Sponsor: Red Rose Repeater Association

CARA Fest

Date: 10/4/2026

Location: West Friendship, MD

Sponsor: Columbia ARC

In case you missed it,



check out the May issue.

SKYWARN, ARES, RACES



SKYWARN® is a national network of volunteer severe weather spotters.

The spotters are trained by local National Weather Service Forecast

Offices on how to spot severe

thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail and flooding. In some parts of the country, spotters also report snowfall and ice accumulation.

To learn more about SKYWARN® and how to become a spotter, [click here](#).

Harford County ARES/RACES Group meets at the Harford County Emergency Operations Center in Forest Hill, MD, the first Thursday of each month, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Let them know in advance if you would like to attend, via email to Steven Fook (K2EJ), Harford County Emergency Coordinator.

To learn more about Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), [click here](#).

Training

SKYWARN® Classes

Virtual class, June 8, 6-8 pm, [Register here](#)

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Radio License Exams

Examination sessions are offered throughout the year at various locations. Visit our new licensing page to prepare:

<https://w3pga.net/getting-your-license/>

[ARRL](#) and many other online sources have resources to help you study.



VE Corner

Maryland Test Sites Confirm in Advance

6/2/26, 5:45 pm: [Severna Park](#), register or call ahead

6/6/26, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

6/20/26, 8:45 am: [Forest Hill](#), walk-ins allowed

6/20/26, 9:00 am: [Laurel](#), walk-ins allowed

7/11/26, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

7/18/26, 9:00 am: [Laurel](#), walk-ins allowed

8/1/26, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

8/15/26, 9:00 am: [Laurel](#), walk-ins allowed

8/22/26, 8:45 am: [Forest Hill](#), walk-ins allowed

9/12/26, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

9/19/26, 9:00 am: [Laurel](#), walk-ins allowed

10/10/26, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

10/10/26, 8:45 am: [Forest Hill](#), walk-ins allowed

10/17/26, 9:00 am: [Laurel](#), walk-ins allowed

11/7/26, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

11/21/26, 9:00 am: [Laurel](#), walk-ins allowed

12/5/26, 2:30 pm: [Catonsville](#), walk-ins allowed

12/5/26, 8:45 am: [Forest Hill](#), walk-ins allowed

Contest Corral

June 2026

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at www.arrl.org/contest-calendar. Check <https://contests.arrl.org> for recent results. Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

| Start - Finish | | Bands | Contest Name | Mode | Exchange | Sponsor's Website | |
|----------------|-----------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date-Time | Date-Time | | | | | | |
| 2 | 0000 | 2 0200 | 3.5-28 | ARS Spartan Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, pwr | ars-qrp.com |
| 4 | 0000 | 4 0500 | 144 | VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA | Dig | 4-char grid | ft8activity-na.net |
| 4 | 0000 | 5 0300 | 7 | Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest | CW | Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr | qrpcontest.com/pigwalk40 |
| 4 | 1700 | 4 2100 | 28 | NRAU 10m Activity Contest | CW Ph Dig | RS(T), 6-char grid | nrau.net |
| 4 | 2000 | 4 2200 | 1.8-28,50 | SKCC Sprint Europe | CW | RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none" | www.skccgroup.com |
| 5 | 1900 | 5 1959 | 3.5,7 | HA3NS Sprint Memorial Contest | CW | RST, mbr or "NM" | radioamator.nonlapepites.hu |
| 6 | 0000 | 6 1459 | 1.8-28 | Tisza Cup CW Contest | CW Ph | RST, CQ zone | www.tiszacup.eu |
| 6 | 0000 | 6 2359 | 1.8-28 | VK Shires Contest | CW Ph | RS(T), VK shire or CQ zone | www.wia.org.au |
| 6 | 0000 | 8 2359 | 1.8-28,50 | PODXS 070 Club 3-Day Weekend Contest | Dig | Mbr or "0000" | www.podxs070.com |
| 6 | 0600 | 6 0800 | 7,14 | Wake-Up! QRP Sprint | CW | RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO) | qrp.ru |
| 6 | 1300 | 7 0100 | 1.8-28,50,144 | Kentucky QSO Party | CW Ph Dig | RS(T), KY county or SPC | www.kyqsoparty.org |
| 6 | 1300 | 7 1300 | 50 | UKSMG Summer Contest | CW Ph Dig | RST, serial, 6-char grid, mbr (optional) | uksmg.org |
| 6 | 1500 | 7 1459 | 1.8-28 | IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW | CW | RST, serial | www.darc.de |
| 6 | 1500 | 7 1500 | 1.8-28 | RSGB National Field Day | CW | RST, serial | www.rsgbcc.org |
| 6 | 1800 | 7 2359 | 1.8-28,50 | ARRL Int'l Digital Contest | Dig (no RTTY) | 4-char grid | www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest |
| 7 | 1400 | 8 0100 | 3.5-28 | Atlantic Canada QSO Party | CW Ph | RS(T), province and county or SPC | acqp.ca |
| 10 | 0030 | 10 0230 | 3.5-14 | NAQCC CW Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, mbr or pwr | naqcc.info |
| 10 | 2100 | 10 2359 | 1.8-28 | PVRC Reunion | CW Ph Dig | Name, SPC, 1st year and call sign when joined (if member) | pvrc.org |
| 11 | 0000 | 11 0500 | 432 | VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA | Dig | 4-char grid | ft8activity-na.net |
| 11 | 2200 | 12 0100 | 1.8-28 | PVRC Reunion | CW Ph Dig | Name, SPC, 1st year and call sign when joined (if member) | pvrc.org |
| 12 | 2300 | 13 0200 | 1.8-28 | PVRC Reunion | CW Ph Dig | Name, SPC, 1st year and call sign when joined (if member) | pvrc.org |
| 13 | 0000 | 13 2359 | 3.5-28 | YB ORARI DX Contest | Ph | RS, "ORARI" or "DX" | www.oraricontest.id |
| 13 | 1100 | 13 1300 | 14,21 | Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB | Ph | RS, serial | jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt |
| 13 | 1200 | 14 1200 | 3.5-28 | Portugal Day Contest | CW Ph | RS(T), CT district or serial | portugaldaycontest.rep.pt |
| 13 | 1200 | 14 2359 | 1.8-28,50 | SKCC Weekend Sprintathon | CW | RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none" | www.skccgroup.com |
| 13 | 1400 | 13 1800 | 144,432 | AGCW VHF/UHF Contest | CW | RST, serial, pwr, 6-char grid | www.agcw.de |
| 13 | 1400 | 14 1400 | 50 | REF DDFM 6m Contest | CW Ph | RS(T), serial, 4-char grid | concours.r-e-f.org |
| 13 | 1500 | 14 1500 | 3.5-28 | GACW WWSA CW DX Contest | CW | RST, CQ zone | www.gacw.ar |
| 13 | 1800 | 15 0259 | 50 and up | ARRL June VHF Contest | CW Ph Dig | 4-char grid | www.arrl.org/june-vhf |
| 15 | 0000 | 15 0200 | 1.8-28 | 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint | CW Ph | RS(T), SPC, mbr or pwr | www.4sqrp.com |
| 15 | 1900 | 15 2100 | 3.5-28 | RSGB FT4 Contest | Dig | Signal report | www.rsgbcc.org |
| 17 | 0030 | 17 0230 | 3.5-14 | NAQCC CW Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, mbr or pwr | naqcc.info |
| 18 | 0000 | 18 0500 | 1296 | VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA | Dig | 4-char grid | ft8activity-na.net |
| 18 | 0000 | 19 0300 | 14 | Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest | CW | Max 13 WPM; RST, SPC, name, mbr or pwr | qrpcontest.com/pigwalk20 |
| 18 | 1900 | 18 2000 | 3.5-14 | NTC QSO Party | CW | Max 25 WPM; RST, mbr or "NM" | pi4ntc.nl/ntcqp |
| 20 | 0000 | 20 2359 | 3.5-28 | Pajajaran Bogor DX Contest | Ph | RS, serial | www.pbdx-contest.id |
| 20 | 0000 | 21 2359 | 1.8-28 | All Asian DX Contest, CW | CW | RST, 2-digit age | www.jarl.org |
| 20 | 0000 | 21 2359 | 50 | SMIRK Contest | CW Ph Dig | 4-char grid, mbr (optional) | smirk.info/contest.html |
| 20 | 1200 | 21 2359 | All, no WARC | SKCC QSO Party | CW | RST, SPC, name, 4-char grid | www.skccgroup.com |
| 20 | 1400 | 21 1400 | 50 | IARU Region 1 50 MHz Contest | CW Ph | RS(T), serial, 6-char grid | www.iaru-r1.org |
| 20 | 1400 | 21 1400 | 50 | LZ International 6-Meter Contest | CW Ph | RS(T), serial, 6-char grid | www.radioclub-troyan.bg |
| 20 | 1500 | 21 1500 | 1.8 | Stew Perry Topband Challenge | CW | 4-char grid | www.kkn.net/stew |
| 20 | 1600 | 21 0400 | 3.5-28 | West Virginia QSO Party | CW Ph Dig | RS(T), WV county or SPC | www.qsl.net/wvqp |
| 20 | 1800 | 20 2359 | 3.5-14,18,21, 24,28, 2 repeaters | ARRL Kids Day | Ph | Name, age, QTH, favorite color | www.arrl.org/kids-day |
| 21 | 0800 | 21 1400 | 50 | WAB 50 MHz Phone | Ph | RS, serial, WAB square or country | wab.intermip.net/Contest%20Rules.php |
| 21 | 2300 | 22 0100 | 1.8-28 | Run for the Bacon QRP Contest | CW | RST, SPC, mbr or pwr | qrpcontest.com/pigrun |
| 24 | 0000 | 24 0200 | 1.8-28,50 | SKCC Sprint | CW | RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none" | www.skccgroup.com |
| 27 | 0600 | 27 1700 | 3.5-28 | UFT QRP Contest | CW | RST, QRP/QRO, mbr or "NM" | www.uft.net |
| 27 | 1200 | 28 1200 | 1.8-28 | His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB | Ph | RST, EA province or serial | concursos.ure.es |
| 27 | 1800 | 28 2100 | All, except 60, 30, 17, 12 | ARRL Field Day | CW Ph Dig | Number of transmitters, operating class, ARRL/RAC Section or "DX" | www.arrl.org/field-day |

There are a number of weekly contests not included in the table above. For more info, visit: www.qrpfoxhunt.org, www.ncccsprint.com, and www.cwops.org. All dates and times refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Contests are not conducted on the 60-, 30-, 17-, or 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. *Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at www.contestcalendar.com and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.*

Special Event Stations

Working special event stations is an enjoyable way to help commemorate history. Many provide a special QSL card or certificate!

May 30 – May 31, 1000Z – 1700Z, N8S, Mount Clemens, MI. Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association. **Selfridge Air National Guard Base 2026 Open House and Airshow.** 7.240 14.240 21.240 28.340. Certificate & QSL. N8S, P.O. Box 46331, Mount Clemens, MI.

June 1 – June 14, 1300Z – 2200Z, K3NEM, Middle River, MD. Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum. **W2W D-Day Commemoration.** 7.044 7.244 14.044 14.244. Certificate & QSL. ARCNEM, c/o Fred Heath, 202 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park, MD 21146-1368. *Primary operation will be June 1 – 6 with additional operation possible during June 7 – 14 as operator availability permits. Operation on 80 meters (3.544, 3.844), additional bands, and digital modes possible during event. Frequencies ± according to QRM.*
<https://ww-2.us>

June 6, 1400Z – 1900Z, W6J, Christiansburg, VA. New River Valley Amateur Radio Club. **D-Day.** 14.262. QSL. Danny Wylam, 710 McDaniel Dr. Southeast, Christiansburg, VA 24073-3848. *Operating from the National D-Day Memorial.*
dannywylam@gmail.com

June 6 – June 7, 0000Z – 2359Z, N1S, Groton, CT. Generations Amateur Radio Club. **Historic Ship USS Nautilus SSN-571 Museum Ships Weekend.** 3.950 7.250 14.270 21.075. QSL. N1S Generations ARC, 110 Vinegar Hill Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335. *Nautilus information:* www.usnautilus.org. www.qrz.com/db/n1s or www.qrz.com/db/k3lbd

June 6 – June 7, 0001Z – 2359Z, W4BSF, Oneida, TN. Big South Fork Amateur Radio Club. **USS Tennessee Museum Ships Weekend.** 3.900 7.200 14.750 28.400. QSL. Buddy McCartt, 275 Hunter Hill Rd., Oneida, TN 37841-3578.
<https://bsfarc.org>

June 6 – June 7, 1400Z – 2020Z, NB9QV, Manitowoc, WI. USS *Cobia* Amateur Radio Club. **NB9QV USS Cobia Museum Ships Weekend.** 7.240 14.240. e-Certificate. *Send contact information to kc9yl@arrl.net to receive PDF certificate.* www.qrz.com/db/nb9qv

June 6 – June 7, 1400Z – 2200Z, K3SAV, Baltimore, MD. Nuclear Ship *Savannah* Amateur Radio Club. **Museum Ships Weekend.** 7000. QSL. Ulis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd., Odenton, MD 21113. *Check spotting networks for frequencies on all bands.* www.qrz.com/db/k3sav

June 6 – June 21, 0000Z – 2359Z, W7AIA, various cities and states. Clark County Amateur Radio Club. **Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air.** 14.240. Certificate & QSL. Clark County Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1424, Vancouver, WA 98661. *SSB, FM, CW, and FT8 on 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meters across 16 states. See website for information on receiving certificates, time slots, and operating frequencies.* www.lctota.org or info@lctota.org

June 10 – July 15, 0000Z – 2359Z, K5A, Springdale, AR. Bella Vista Radio Club. **190th Anniversary of Arkansas Statehood.** 7.040 7.260 14.040 14.260. QSL. Don Banta, 3407 Diana St., Springdale, AR 72764. www.qrz.com/db/k5a or <https://bellavistaradioclub.org>

June 11 – July 19, 0000Z – 2359Z, W5C, Dallas, TX. Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society. **2026 World Soccer Tournament.** 14.074. Certificate & individual host city QSL. Ron Franklin, 120 PR 22223, Whitney, TX 76692. *W5C will join 16 special event stations located in host cities in Mexico, Canada, and the US. Days and times will vary. Check out www.wc2026ses.org for each city's schedule.* info@wc2026ses.org

June 12 – July 19, 0000Z – 2300Z, WM3PEN, Philadelphia, PA. Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club. **2026 World Soccer Tournament.** 7.276 14.276. QSL. Bob Josuweit, 3341 Sheffield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19136. *WM3PEN will join 16 special event stations located in host cities in Mexico, Canada, and the US. Days and times will vary. Check out www.wc2026ses.org for each city's schedule. QSL card available for SASE and donation to offset printing costs.* www.qrz.com/db/wm3pen or info@wc2026ses.org

June 20, 1400Z – 2100Z, W2ECR, Orchard Park, NY. East Coast Reflector. **East Coast Reflector Meet and Greet.** 7.217 14.317. Certificate. Steven Fook, 351 Regal Dr., Abingdon, MD 21009. www.eastcoastreflector.com

June 21, 1200Z – 2200Z, W3G, Trexlertown, PA. East Penn Amateur Radio Club/Education Alliance for Amateur Radio. **World Giraffe Day.** 7.266. QSL. Walter J. Skavinsky, 1574 Layfield Rd., Pennsburg, PA 18073-1702. *Operating from the giraffe exhibit at Lehigh Valley Zoo.* kb3sbc@arrl.net or walter.skavinsky@radiostemalliance.org

June 24 – Jan. 1, 0000Z – 0000Z, N6R, Thousand Oaks, CA. Ventura County Amateur Radio Station. **Field Day 2026.** 14.255. QSL. Peter Heins, 1559 Norwich Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. *Celebrating the lives of President Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan.* www.vcars.org

June 25 – July 8, 0000Z – 2359Z, KMØDRC, Doniphan, MO. Doniphan Amateur Radio Club. **America250.** 28.500. QSL. Kent Wilfong, 209 Locust St., Doniphan, MO 63935.
doniphanarc@outlook.com

June 27 – June 28, 1800Z – 1800Z, W2GSB, Babylon, NY. Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club. **Field Day.** 7.275 14.245 21.325 28.500. QSL. GSBARC Field Day, 200 E. Sunrise Hwy., Lindenhurst, NY 11757. www.gsbarc.org

How's DX?

February 2026 3YØK DXpedition to Bouvet

In this month's column, guest author Ken Opskar, LA7GIA, shares details about his much-anticipated return to Bouvet Island with the 3YØK team.

In February 2026, an international team of 14 operators set course for Bouvet Island, currently ranked number 10 on Club Log's DX Century Club (DXCC) Most Wanted List. This volcanic island is a Norwegian dependency in the Southern Ocean. It remains one of the most isolated places on Earth. As a designated nature reserve, landing requires a permit issued by Norwegian authorities, and setting up camp there is only possible via helicopter.

Bouvet has attracted numerous DXpeditions in recent years, and every team that managed to reach the island has faced severe weather conditions. Four members of the 3YØK team also participated in the 2023 3YØJ DXpedition to Bouvet, and with that experience, we began planning our return.

Readying the Campsite

On February 28, a small reconnaissance team of three loaded their gear into an AS350 helicopter on a vessel located on the island's northeast side. Our mission was to scout the landing area and determine the best location for the camp. After 3 years of planning the immense challenge of getting the team and equipment safely ashore, the moment felt surreal. As we flew over the island, several thoughts ran through my mind. We had prepared the team to stay focused and determined in order to face the difficulties ahead of us. Our plan-



The 3YØK camp area with a view toward Europe. [Ken Opskar, LA7GIA, photo]

ning evolved through several phases as we refined how to establish a camp and how to move people and equipment safely on and off the island within the narrow weather windows.

As we approached Cape Fie, it was clear how dramatically the island had changed since our last visit. Due to global warming, the glacier receded significantly, and wildlife took over the area. Thousands of seals now occupied Cape Fie — some reaching all the way up to the former camp location and beyond! Landing by dinghy under these conditions would have been extremely dangerous.

Using the helicopter, we were relieved to find a quiet and suitable camp area on a hill near what had previously been designated the upper landing area. This location offered excellent take-off angles in most directions, including the best path to North America from that side of the island. Many North American DXers had hoped we would set up on the northwest side, but the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI) avoids that area due to frequent landslides. As we passed the northwest side later, we saw the NPI weather station almost collapsing in the water, as its foundations were destroyed by a recent landslide.

Once the recon team landed, we began receiving helicopter sling loads of essential items. We held daily meetings with the vessel and helicopter crew during the voyage. Our discussions covered landing procedures, risk factors, and necessary preparations. We also spent considerable time with the pilots to understand their flight parameters, weather assessments, and risk evaluations. By the time we arrived, the crew was fully integrated with us as one unified team with a shared mission to activate Bouvet.

Operating Amid the Elements

It took 5 days from our initial landing to complete the camp setup, which included seven stations, five Yagis, and verticals for 160 – 40 meters. Additionally, we had five large tents — three sleeping tents, a social tent, and a radio tent — plus another group of smaller emergency tents. During those first days, we focused on building infrastructure and facilities and erecting



3Y0K team members having trouble standing up against 50-knot wind gusts. The 80-meter vertical is pictured in the background. [Ken Opskar, LA7GIA, photo]

simpler antennas to get on the air as we battled the windy conditions. The wind on Bouvet is relentless. Typically around 30 knots and rarely below 20 knots, it often reaches 40 – 50 knots with 60-knot gusts. Every time one of us stepped outside a tent, we could expect to be hit in the face with a gust so strong it became difficult to stand upright.

We worked hard as a team, both when building the camp and when working the intense pileups. Our selection of monoband Yagis from WiMo (three to five elements on 20, 15, and 10 meters) was a major strength. With Acom amplifiers running at around 1 kW, we produced strong signals across much of the world. We had three models available: the 500S, the 1400S, and the 2020S. The Spiderbeam fiberglass poles performed impressively, bending heavily in the wind but returning to normal whenever conditions eased. We used an 18-meter top-loaded vertical for top band and full-size verticals for 80 and 40 meters. We were able to place Yagis on small moraine hills left behind by the retreating glacier, effectively increasing antenna height while keeping mast height lower for

safety and mechanical reasons. Some antennas were positioned near the edge to optimize take-off angles toward Asia and Europe. Our main radios were Icom IC-7610s that performed flawlessly — user-friendly, reliable, and with excellent built-in panadapters for monitoring pileups. The combination of monoband Yagis, big amplifiers, and quality radios made a difference in our ability to produce strong signals. The propagation was mostly good, though we experienced a solar storm the last few days of the operation. We also ran in-band operation, mostly on 40, 20, 17, 15, and 12 meters, which allowed us to increase the number of contacts. We had some expected station interference in such a high-power setup, but we managed this well with a combination of adapting the frequencies, using filters, and fine-tuning the antenna location and separation.

Gratitude for All Involved

As we approached the end of the DXpedition, we carefully planned the extraction of personnel and equipment from the island. Within two weather windows during the last weekend, all were off of the island and safely back on the vessel. This was due to great teamwork by everyone involved. The operation was a success; we achieved our goals, made more than 102,000 contacts, and experienced no injuries. It was a happy team that returned to the welcome ceremony hosted by the South African Radio League in Cape Town the following weekend.

The 3Y0K budget was approximately \$1.7 million, making it the most expensive DXpedition ever undertaken. Without the collaboration of a small private group, this would not have been possible. We fully acknowledge and appreciate their contribution. Alongside them, our support team, medical personnel, and experienced polar guides were essential to the success of this mission. We are already planning our next adventure with the private group: Peter I Island, ranked number seven on Club Log's DXCC Most Wanted List.

We extend our deepest thanks to all donors, clubs, individuals, and supporters who believed in us and made the 3Y0K DXpedition to Bouvet Island possible. On behalf of the entire 3Y0K team — thank you! With this, we can say that all of our efforts during the last 3 years have come to an end, and we are happy to say, “Mission accomplished.”

Ask Dave

Get more information from the “QST: Ask Dave” YouTube playlist at <https://bit.ly/3z2MBMI>.

Portable Ops, RG-59, and Antenna Reciprocity

Grounding While Portable

Q Curt Sardeson, KB9JQU, asks: I’ve been thinking of operating portable, such as Parks on the Air®. I don’t really see anyone talking about grounding the radio or coaxial cable while working portable — perhaps the antenna type has something to do with it, or perhaps it just isn’t practical to drive a ground rod while portable. What do you recommend?

A There are two issues with using ground rods during portable operations. First, if you are near park facilities, driving anything into the ground can damage underground infrastructure, such as water pipes or underground electrical cables. Many parks even forbid putting tent stakes in the ground. Second, a fully driven 8-foot ground rod is nearly impossible to remove without equipment that can lift several hundred — or perhaps even a couple thousand — pounds, like a tow truck. What’s more, leaving a ground rod in place can create hazards for others; even if you drive it a couple extra feet into the ground, erosion from flooding or further excavation can expose others to tripping hazards or damage construction equipment.

Simple portable operations often consist of a battery, the radio, the coax, and the antenna, skipping grounding entirely. If you are using a balanced antenna, such as a dipole, a system with no reference to ground can act like an entirely balanced system. Such a station can be “hot” with RF, causing the radio to misbehave, but this can be alleviated by running at low power or adding a few radial wires from the antenna feedpoint.

Using RG-59 to Feed a 10-Meter Antenna

Q Brandon Godsell, KQ4ZUT, who recently upgraded to a General license, asks: I have 500 feet of RG-59 coaxial cable with a characteristic impedance of 75 Ω. Can I use this to feed a 10-meter antenna?

A Yes, you can, but there are caveats. First, RG-59 coaxial cable is rather lossy at 10 meters, but no more so than the popular RG-8X cable. Second, the

difference in impedance between your 50 Ω radio and the 75 Ω cable will create a reflection, so your standing wave ratio will be no better than 1.6:1. This impedance mismatch, however, is well within the corrective capabilities of the antenna tuners built into modern radios.

The losses in this cable can cause you to lose about half of your transmit and receive power. If you are particularly interested in 10 meters, you may want to spring for lower-loss RG-213 or LMR-400 coaxial cable. I recommend buying these cables with the connectors already attached.

Many amateur radio antennas cover the HF bands from 40 through 10 meters, and sometimes they even cover 6 meters and parts of 80 meters. One common antenna option, the end-fed half-wave (EFHW), is readily available from several sources, including ARRL’s EFHW Antenna Kit for 10, 15, 20, and 40 meters, which is available from the ARRL Store for less than \$100 (<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/133267>).

Effect of a Felony on Obtaining a License

Q Brandon Godsell, KQ4ZUT, also asks: I have a friend who has a felony conviction on his record. He has completed his jail time and turned his life around. Will this prevent him from getting an amateur radio license?

A Whether or not your friend can get his license will depend on the nature of the felony. The FCC includes a question about felony convictions on Form 605, which he would need to fill out as part of his license application. Answering “yes” requires that the applicant submit a statement explaining their conviction directly to the FCC — not to the VE team or ARRL — for adjudication. ARRL explains in detail at www.arrl.org/fcc-qualification-question.

In a reply to a 2011 petition asking that felons be barred from amateur radio (see <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-11-1315A1.txt>), the FCC explained:

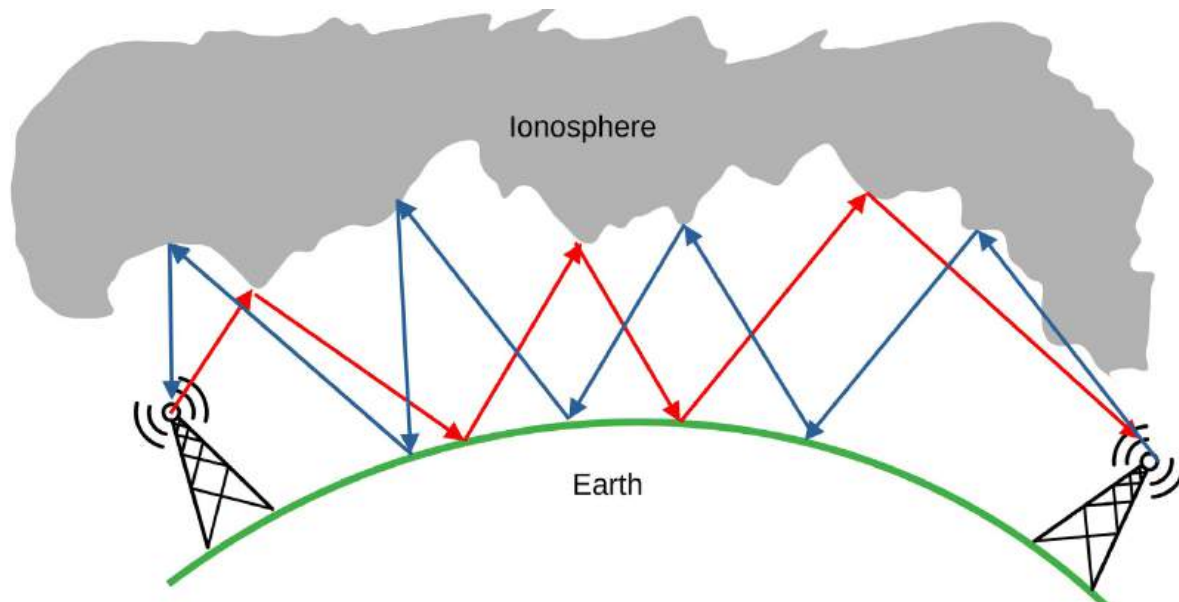


Figure 1 — Under real-world conditions, the relationship between receiving and transmitting may not be perfectly reciprocal. The path of the transmitted signal, shown from left to right (red), is usually different from the path of the received signal, from right to left (blue).

Before it will revoke a license or deny an application based on the felony conviction...the Commission takes into consideration factors that may mitigate a licensee's felonious misconduct. For example, the Commission reviews the willfulness of the misconduct, the frequency of the misconduct, how recently the misconduct occurred, the seriousness of the misconduct, efforts made to remedy the wrong, overall record of compliance with FCC rules and policies, and rehabilitation. Thus, a felony conviction may disqualify a person from holding an amateur radio license but does not necessarily disqualify the person.

Your friend's letter to the FCC should address each of the items quoted above. Note that, unless your friend accompanies his statement with a specific request for privacy, his response will be available to the public via the FCC's Universal Licensing System.

Antenna Reciprocity

Q Bil Paul, KD6JUI, asks: In your "Ask Dave" column in the November 2025 issue of *QST*, you said that most antennas are reciprocal — both transmit and receive characteristics are the same. Which antennas don't display reciprocity?

A Non-reciprocal antennas are an area of active research in advanced communications, but as far as ham radio is concerned, every antenna currently available is reciprocal. According to the 25th edition of *The ARRL Antenna Book*, section 1.5.5, "Reciprocity in

Receiving and Transmitting," antennas are reciprocal in that they have the same directivity pattern, same gain, and same impedance.

However, in practice, this reciprocal relationship may not be exact, because the transmitted and received signals follow different paths through the ionosphere, as illustrated in Figure 1. Also, signals refracted by the ionosphere are usually elliptically polarized, regardless of the polarization of the transmitting antenna. A linearly polarized antenna — for example, a ground-mounted vertical or a horizontal dipole — can usually copy at least some of the signal. That said, it is possible that if you transmit with a vertical, the best receive polarization may well be horizontal, or vice versa. It can go so far that while the other station may receive you well, you may not hear their signal at all!

You can take advantage of something called *polarization diversity* by feeding a vertical antenna into one receiver and a horizontal antenna into another. When the incoming signal fades on one antenna, it may well be strong on the other.

Send your questions to askdave@arrl.org. I answer some questions here, and some via videos on my YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/davecasler), or during my weekly livestream on Thursdays at 6:45 to 8:15 PM Mountain Time on my channel.

Design Field Day Your Way

Wayne Burdick, N6KR

Planning and designing your own Field Day experience is half — or more — of the fun, with gear, techniques, and crewmates evolving over time. Whether you're crafting a massive operation or dipping your toes into the Field Day pool for the first time, each year there's a new radio, antenna, or software to test; a new campsite with its idiosyncratic antenna trees, and new ways things can go wrong.

Making Plans

With most radio outings, it's common practice for everyone to bring their favorite gear and hope for the best. But putting multiple stations on the HF bands requires more planning. There's nothing as frustrating as having your receiver's noise floor come up nine S-units when someone else transmits; this is most likely to happen if stations are covering the same band at the same time in two different modes.

Regardless of whether your station setup is large or small, you need to secure permission to operate at your chosen location. One year, we "double-booked" a meadow with an astronomy club (we coexisted on the condition that we use only red-colored lamps, to minimize light pollution, and between shifts we saw the rings of Saturn).

Large Station Setups

Other than selecting clean radios, there are two things you can do to avoid mutual interference in the case of a large-station Field Day setup. First, keep antennas spaced as far apart as possible. Event rules require that all gear, including antennas, be confined to a circle with a 1,000-foot (approximately

300-meter) diameter. Second, you can orient horizontally polarized antennas, such as dipoles and Yagis, so they're perpendicular to each other.



Wayne Burdick, N6KR, using a KH1 while operating solo during 2024 ARRL Field Day. He operated on 20- and 15-meter CW, using an "invisible" #26 AWG trailing ground wire. [Griffin Svec-Burdick, photo]

All the Necessary Bits

When it comes to gear, don't leave out coaxial and dc-power jumper cables, long and short; BNC, SO-239, and other adapters (male and female); various tools; alligator clips; wire; cable ties, and duct tape. Above all, bring all specialized items pertaining to your radios, namely microphones, keyer paddles, batteries, and power cords. I've made CW contacts using ad hoc bits of wire and hardware due to a forgotten key.

Make Assignments

With larger setups, you should assign operators to specific stations and tasks. A large campaign will need an antenna guru (it's a bonus if they have a crank-up tower on a trailer), an expert CW operator or two, and someone with serious barbecue skills. You'll also need to have activities for kids and teens. They won't all get on the air, so this prevents them from making mischief while you're running stations after dinner.

Small Station Operations

Some of my favorite Field Days have featured a single radio on a picnic table, solo or with a friend. This type of Class-B outing can be every bit as rewarding as a multi-transmitter effort, while requiring less time to prepare. There's no limit to how small you can go. You might sit on a beach chair overlooking the ocean the entire time, operate from a parked car, or backpack through the wilderness with your microphone in hand and solar panel strapped to your pack.

Last year, my Field Day consisted of operating an Elecraft KH1 handheld transceiver while walking — for 2 hours. I used the logbook tray attachment and communed with nature.

Remember to Have Fun

Whether you operate on all bands or one band, stay on the air for 24 hours or 1 hour, aim to earn the highest score in your Section, or simply dabble on the radio, it's still Field Day in all its inimitable glory.

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Field Day Safety

Here are a few tips to get you thinking about ARRL Field Day safety.

Lightning Safety

- ▶ When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing, or an enclosed metal-topped vehicle with the windows up.
- ▶ Stay in a safe shelter for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.
- ▶ Stay away from objects that conduct electricity.
- ▶ Power down and disconnect your radios and generators.

Antenna Safety

- ▶ Be aware of and avoid electrical power lines.
- ▶ Don't climb towers that use temporary guy ropes.
- ▶ Don't climb ladders being used for antenna supports.
- ▶ Erect antennas far enough away from operating positions so there is no possibility of the antenna and structure falling on operators and observers.
- ▶ Regularly inspect guy ropes and stakes.
- ▶ Ensure anchor stakes have sufficient load capacity.
- ▶ Ensure that your Field Day station complies with FCC RF exposure requirements (see www.arrl.org/rf-exposure).
- ▶ Never climb an unguyed tower.

Generator and Electrical Safety

- ▶ Never add fuel to or move a running generator.
- ▶ Store fuel in approved containers away from generators and ignition sources, in well-ventilated areas away from direct sunlight.
- ▶ Centrally locate the generator to keep all branches to stations equal.
- ▶ Use an earth ground at the generator and at each station.
- ▶ If practicable, electrically bond all stations together.

Physical Safety

- ▶ Avoid tripping hazards. Use fluorescent safety tape to mark guy ropes, stakes, and cables.
- ▶ Secure hazardous areas with caution tape to keep people away.
- ▶ Escort visitors around your Field Day site.

Medical Safety

- ▶ Avoid overexposure to sun.
- ▶ Stay hydrated — drink plenty of water.
- ▶ Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- ▶ Keep a first aid kit on hand.
- ▶ Have an automated external defibrillator (AED) on hand.

KH1: TAKE HF ANYWHERE

Light, Fast, Field-Ready!

Whether you're climbing summits or setting up for Field Day, the KH1 is built to go wherever you go.



Internal ATU

Tunes both the built-in multi-band whip and BNC-connected random wires.

CW-Friendly Interface

Optimized for handheld operation, no bench required.

Field Logging Made Easy

Track every contact with convenience.



831-763-4211 Elecraft.com



Club Nets

Second Wednesday Net

70 Centimeters (449.575 MHz Repeater) @ 8 p.m. Local Time

Fourth Wednesday Net

2 Meters (147.24 MHz Repeater) @ 8 p.m. Local Time

Fifth Wednesday Net

10 Meters (28.445 MHz) @ 8 p.m. Local Time

CW Sunday Net

2 Meters (146.550 MHz simplex) @ 8 p.m. Local Time

Net Reports

440 Net Report, From Joe Miko, WB3FMT

On May 13, the club's 440 net had five participants and ran from 20:00 to 20:26 local:

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------|
| W3PGA NCS | Joe | Essex |
| KB3JVP | Ken | Middle River |
| KB3QWC | Larry | Middle River |
| KB3VAE | Richard | Essex |
| KB3YTP | Dave | Parkville |

2-Meter Net Report, From Joe Miko, WB3FMT

On May 27, from 20:00 to 20:19 local, the club ran a 2-meter net. There were four participants:

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------|
| W3PGA NCS | Joe | Essex |
| KB3QWC | Larry | Middle River |
| KB3VAE | Richard | Essex |
| K3DON | Don | Joppatowne |



Local Area Nets

| Day | Time | Freq. (MHz) | Net Name |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Daily | 9 - 10 am | 146.670 | Oriole Net |
| Daily | 6 pm | 3.820 | Maryland Emergency Phone Net |
| Daily | 6:30 - 7 pm | 146.670 PL 107.2 | Baltimore Traffic Net |
| Daily | 7 pm & 10 pm | 3.557 CW | MD/DC/DE Traffic Net |
| 2nd Tue | 7:30 pm | 146.670 | Baltimore County RACES Net |
| 2nd & 4th Tue | 7 pm | 146.775, (-) PL 146.2 | Harford County, MD, ARES |
| 3rd Fri | 8 pm | WASH_DC Node 6154 | MDC Section EchoLink |
| When activated by NOAA | | 147.030 | SkyWarn (primary) |

From the Skies Over Mt. Essex

SKY Events for June 2026

| Date | EDT | Event (EST+1 hr) |
|--------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| | (h:m) | |
| Jun 07 | 02:19 | Moon at Ascending Node |
| 07 | 12:17 | Venus 4.6°S of Pollux |
| 08 | 06:00 | LAST QUARTER MOON |
| 09 | 16:00 | Venus 1.6°N of Jupiter |
| 13 | 09:15 | Pleiades 1.0°S of Moon |
| 14 | 19:18 | Moon at Perigee: 357196 km |
| 14 | 22:54 | NEW MOON |
| 15 | 16:00 | Mercury at Greatest Elong: 24.5°E |
| 16 | 15:32 | Mercury 2.6°S of Moon |
| 16 | 22:08 | Pollux 3.6°N of Moon |
| 17 | 02:54 | Jupiter 2.5°S of Moon |
| 17 | 16:21 | Venus 0.3°S of Moon: Occn. |
| 19 | 10:31 | Regulus 0.3°N of Moon |
| 19 | 13:57 | Moon at Descending Node |
| 21 | 05:25 | Summer Solstice 04:25 EDT |
| 21 | 17:55 | FIRST QUARTER MOON |
| 23 | 16:11 | Spica 2.2°N of Moon |
| 25 | 08:00 | Mercury 3.8°S of Jupiter |
| 27 | 10:32 | Antares 0.5°N of Moon |
| 27 | 14:00 | Field Day 2026 Begins |
| 28 | 03:11 | Moon at Apogee: 406267 km |
| 28 | 14:32 | Mars 4.3°S of Pleiades |
| 29 | 19:57 | FULL Strawberry MOON |

Planet Lookout at Mid-Month

Sunrise 05:38 EST and Sunset 20:34 EDT

Mercury Evening Rises Rise 07:27 Set 22:28, Mag +0.6
Size 8.1 arc seconds

Venus Evening Rise 08:32, Sets 23:10, Mag -4.0 size
14.6 arc seconds.

Mars Morning Rise 03:40 Sets 17:45, Mag +1.3 size 4.4
arc seconds.

Jupiter Evening, Rise 08:09, Sets 22:42, Mag-1.8 size
32.3 arc seconds.

Saturn Morning, Rise 02:11, Sets 14:35, Mag+0..8 size
17.1 arc seconds.

Uranus Evening Rise 04:19 Sets 18:47, Mag +5.8 size
3.4 arc seconds.

Neptune Morning Rises 01:45 Sets 13:52, Mag +7.9
size 2.4 arc seconds

Seasonal Changes

Seasons begin based on two primary systems: the **astronomical calendar** (determined by the

Earth's tilt and orbit) and the meteorological calendar (grouped by the calendar months and average temperatures).

Per the Old Farmer's Almanac - **Astronomical Seasons**, these are based on the Earth's tilt and its position in relation to the sun. Dates can shift by a day or two depending on the year:

- Spring (Vernal Equinox): Around March 20-21 - (Friday March 20, 2026 at 10:46 a.m. EST)
- Summer (Summer Solstice): Around June 20-21 - (Sunday June 21, 2026 at 04:25 a.m. EDT)
- Fall / Autumn (Autumnal Equinox): Around September 22-23 - (Tuesday September 22, 2028 at 08:05 p.m. EDT)
- Winter (Winter Solstice): Around December 21-22 - (Monday December 21, 2026 at 03:50 p.m. EST)

Meteorological Seasons

Climatologists and meteorologists divide the year into equal three-month periods based on temperature cycles to make tracking statistics easier. By this definition, seasons begin on the first of the month:

- Spring: March 1 Sunday 2026, (March, April, May)
- Summer: June 1 Monday 2026, (June, July, August)
- Fall: September 1 Tuesday 2026, (September, October, November)
- Winter: December 1 Tuesday 2026, (December, January, February)

(Note: If you live in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are flipped. For example, when it is astronomical summer in the Northern Hemisphere, it is astronomical winter in the Southern Hemisphere).

You can check out the Farmers' Almanac or the NOAA Education Guide for deeper details on how these cycles affect weather patterns and climate.

In Baltimore, MD, **July is the hottest** month of the year, while **January is the coldest**.

Average water temperatures in the Chesapeake Bay steadily climb throughout the summer, rendering the season ideal for swimming:

- June: Averages 71°F to 75°F (22°C to 24°C)
- July: Averages 79°F to 81°F (26°C to 27°C)
- August: Averages 79°F to 81°F (26°C to 27°C)

Precipitation: Snow 19.3 inches/year, **Rain** 44.98 inches/year.

About the Aero Amateur Radio Club

| Officers | | Committees | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Joe Miko, WB3FMT | <i>Repeater</i> | Phil Hock, W3VRD Ken Erisman, NE3A Dave Brunner, AC3EO |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Rob Ballou, AE3B | <i>VE Testing</i> | Pat Stone, AC3F |
| <i>Recording Secretary</i> | Larry Hill, KB3QWC | <i>Public Service</i> | Bob Landis, WA3SWA |
| <i>Corresponding Secretary</i> | Pat Stone, AC3F | <i>Webmaster, Facebook</i> | Rob Ballou, AE3B |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Tom Hawkins, WA3QLY | <i>Trustee</i> | Dave Frederick, KB3KRV (W3PGA) Jim Marshall, KC3FBL (AE3RO) |
| <i>Resource Coordinator</i> | Ron Distler, W3JEH | <i>Club Nets</i> | Joe Miko, WB3FMT |
| | | <i>Contests</i> | Harry Rundall, AC3EK |
| | <i>Newsletter Editor</i> | Cathy Feinman, W3CLF | |
| Aerial archives dating to 2004 are available at https://w3pga.net/the-aerial-newsletter-library/ | | | |
| Website: http://w3pga.net | | | |
| Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/W3PGAClub | | | |
| Email: w3pgaclub@gmail.com | | | |

Meetings

The Aero Amateur Radio Club meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Essex SkyPark, 1401 Diffendall Road, Essex. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. local time, but folks typically start showing up around 6 pm. Meetings are canceled if Baltimore County Public Schools are closed or dismiss early. Zoom link is <https://w3pga.net/>. Contact the club email for the code.

W3PGA 2 M INPUT: 147.84 MHz, OUTPUT: 147.24 MHz, PL 123.0

W3PGA 70 Cm INPUT: 444.575 MHz, OUTPUT: 449.575 MHz, PL123.0

W3JEH 1.25 M INPUT: 222.24 MHz, OUTPUT: 223.84 MHz