

# THE S GNAL



*Newsletter of the Bella Vista area Radio Club*

**Arkansas' Largest  
Amateur Radio Club**

**Special  
BVRC Field DAY  
Issue**

- July meeting –  
2026 Field Day Review
- Announcing –  
Summer 2026  
Technician License Class
- Announcing –  
Summer 2026  
General License Class
- Non-ARRL members – Join today
- Club Station Task Force  
Holds Phase-2 Meeting
- W1AW – The Station That  
Became the Voice  
of Amateur Radio
- BVRC Field Day 2026 –  
The Best Yet !

**AUGUST 2026**

**Monthly Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays @ 7 p.m.**  
**Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA)**  
**3424 S. Downum Road, Springdale AR**  
***(HAM 101 Workshop for Newcomers @ 6pm preceding meeting)***

**Club Calls: N5BVA / W5NX**

*(Repeater Nets)*

*(Contesting, Operating, Special Events)*

**BVRC Twin Linked Repeaters:**

**Bella Vista: 147.255 +600 khz offset, pl 162.2**

**Springdale: 444.100 + 5 MHz offset, pl 162.2**

**Website: [www.bellavistaradioclub.org](http://www.bellavistaradioclub.org)**



*The Largest Amateur Radio Club  
In Arkansas!*

**Serving members in northwest Arkansas,  
southwest Missouri, & northeast Oklahoma**



# WEEKLY BVRC NETS

## HAM 101 NET

*Mondays @ 7 pm on the  
WX5NAS Skywarn Link System*

Bentonville – 146.865, -offset, pl 103.5  
Springdale – 147.315, +offset, pl 97.4  
Fayetteville – 147.315, +offset, pl 110.9  
Huntsville – 443.625, +5 MHz, pl 97.4  
Green Forest – 145.310, -offset, pl 103.5

## LEGACY NET

*Wednesdays @ 7 pm on the  
BVRC Dual Linked Repeaters*

N5BVA/Bella Vista  
147.255, +offset, pl 162.2

N5BVA/Springdale  
444.100, +5 MHz, pl 162.2

## 3830 ROUNDTABLE

*Sunday Afternoons  
4:00 pm during CST  
4:30 pm during CDT*

**3.830 MHz**

## SLOW SCAN TV NET

*“The Slow Scan Show”  
Fridays @ 7 pm on the  
BVRC Dual Linked Repeaters*

N5BVA/Bella Vista  
147.255, +offset, pl 162.2

N5BVA/Springdale  
444.100, +5 MHz, pl 162.2



# NEXT BVRC MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026 @ 7PM  
ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY  
3424 S. DOWNUM ROAD  
SPRINGDALE, AR

## August Meeting Information

HAM 101 Workshop, 6pm preceding monthly meeting – BVRC member Brandon Gage – W5BNL will be the instructor for this month's Workshop, and will be teaching on another never-before-presented program, "Seek You – SSTV". Brandon is the founder of BVRC's weekly Slow Scan TV net, The Slow Scan Show. He will be sharing on how fun and easy it is to get involved with this older but still immensely popular mode. The Slow Scan Show has been growing and gaining followers. After you see Brandon's presentation, you'll see why and you'll want to give this fun mode a try!

BVRC August meeting, 7pm – BVRC welcomes back member Mark Whatley – K5XH for our August program. Mark's presentation will be on the topic "The Magic of SDR". SDR stands for Software-Defined Radio. It is a radio communication system where components traditionally implemented in hardware are instead implemented via software on a general-purpose processor. SDRs are widely used in military communications, amateur radio, and wireless research. The SDR is rapidly becoming the future of amateur radios. If you're unfamiliar with SDRs, don't miss out on this program. Mark has hosted several programs for the club in the past, and he never disappoints.

**SEE YOU THEN!**

## BOARD MEMBERS



## APPOINTED OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Jan Hagan - WB5JAN  
[wb5jan@arri.net](mailto:wb5jan@arri.net)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Bromley - WQ5T  
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### SECRETARY

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### NSBVA TRUSTEE

Roger Dickey - KJ4QIS  
[dickeyr@gmail.com](mailto:dickeyr@gmail.com)

### BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE & PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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[w5xna@arri.net](mailto:w5xna@arri.net)

### EDUCATION & ELMER 911 COMMITTEE

Chair: Vinson Carter - WV5C  
[vinsoncarter@gmail.com](mailto:vinsoncarter@gmail.com)

### NETS COMMITTEE

Chair: Stephen Ponder - N5ZE  
[stponder@gmail.com](mailto:stponder@gmail.com)

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Tom Northfell - W5XNA  
[w5xna@arri.net](mailto:w5xna@arri.net)

### SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair: Alex Smith - KI5EQK  
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### EMCOMM COMMITTEE

Chair: Drake Rush - KJ5MXM  
[drakerush1@hotmail.com](mailto:drakerush1@hotmail.com)

### W5NX TRUSTEE & CLUB STATION MGR.

Jay Bromley - W5JAY  
[jayw5jay@outlook.com](mailto:jayw5jay@outlook.com)

### WEBMASTER

Roger Dickey - KJ5QIS  
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### VE TESTING COMMITTEE

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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[arsk5db@gmail.com](mailto:arsk5db@gmail.com)



## OK, JUST WHAT DOES THE ARRL DO FOR ME?



I am often asked by new members and amateur radio operators about exactly what the American Radio Relay League does. Of course, many have heard of the ARRL but other than knowing that it is an organization that costs money to join, many are unclear just what they get for their money.

That prompted me to think about that. Just what do we get for our money with the ARRL?

Turns out, more than most of us ever realize.

First and foremost, the ARRL is the one national organization that vigilantly monitors and lobbies for an amateur operator's most primary and precious resource ... our right to operate exclusively on our designated bands of the radio spectrum. Increasingly, there are pressures from industry in the private sector to slice away sections of the amateur band spectrum for commercial use. It is ARRL's strong national lobbying effort with congress and federal agencies to protect the right of amateur radio operators to use of our designated radio bands that keep these efforts at bay. This work by the ARRL of course takes resources to keep these efforts effective.

Secondly, the ARRL serves as the organizational leader for many of our amateur radio's most cherished activities and traditions. Our club's largest

largest operating event of the year – Field Day – as well as other events our members participate in such as Rookie Roundup, November Sweepstakes, the International DX CW and Phone Contests, and School Club Roundup, in addition to the many other activities and contests, are organized and sponsored by the League.

Finally, the ARRL provides an effective resource for accurate news and information about all facets of the wide scope of our hobby, from traditional operations and equipment to the most cutting edge technologies and hardware.

The League also includes many human interest stories about individuals and clubs throughout the national amateur community. Indeed, our own BVRC club has been featured in articles in the ARRL's national magazine, "QST" twice in the past two years, including this year's May edition that featured BVRC as one of the twelve clubs highlighted as part of the ARRL's 2026 "Year of the Club" initiative.

So, what does the ARRL do for me and my fellow amateur operators? Without sounding overly dramatic, I believe I can say the League makes our amateur radio hobby sustainable and possible, both now and in the future.

73,  
Jan – WB5JAN



# July Meeting Features 2026 Field Day Review



BVRC members were treated to a big and exciting surprise for the July meeting. Our home classrooms in the old ALETA building are currently undergoing a facelift with remodeling procedures, and until that project is completed we will be meeting in the brand new ADLEST (Arkansas Department of Law Enforcement Standards & Training) building, adjacent to the ALETA building. This was the case for the July meeting.

Unfortunately, our feature guest speaker, Dave Casler – KEØOG, was unable to attend due to a last-minute family emergency.

However, the night was not lost as our stellar Field Day Chair Tom Northfell – W5XNA took to the podium with a great review of this year's Field Day event.



Tom (standing in far back of room on right) has been FD chair for several years now, and thanks to his leadership coupled with the invaluable volunteerism and talent of our awesome members, this year's Field Day was the best in the history of the club, with bigger and better Field Days to come.

Our evening meal of hamburgers and hot dogs along with all the trimmings and desserts was once again served up by our outstanding Hospitality team. It was all hands on deck the day before on Friday as the club once again experienced a fabulous turnout of volunteers for the antenna raisings. And last but certainly not least, our station operators outdid themselves by amassing the best FD score the club has ever accumulated, with a club record busting 2,805 QSOs.

Here is a breakdown of the fantastic job the club did in the 2026 Field Day contest:

|                |       |                                                                                 |
|----------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total QSOs:    | 2,805 |                                                                                 |
| Total points:  | 9,770 |                                                                                 |
| CW QSOs:       | 1,518 |                                                                                 |
| Phone QSOs:    | 750   |                                                                                 |
| Digital QSOs:  | 537   |                                                                                 |
| ARRL sections: | 83    | (85 maximum. Almost a sweep.<br>We only missed Alaska and Canadian Territories) |
| DX countries:  | 21    |                                                                                 |
| U.S. states:   | 49    |                                                                                 |

Of course, Field Day is much more than a contest, but it is still fun to consider scores and compare years. – BVRC was edged-out of its 1<sup>st</sup> Place national standing in the 3A-Commercial category from 2024 last year by a scant 147 points. Hopefully this outstanding score will be sufficient to bring the first-place prize back to the club. But either way.....

**CONGRATULATIONS BVRC ON A  
MONUMENTAL JOB WELL DONE!!!**



A row of ten bright blue stage lights with lens flares, illuminating the title below.

# **Announcing the Summer 2026 BVRC Technician License Class!**

BVRC Membership Chair, Past President, and  
ARRL Certified Instructor, Tom-W5XNA  
has announced the convening of the  
2026 Summer BVRC Technician License Class:

**CLASS DATES:** Saturday, August 22 and Saturday, August 29, 2026

**CLASS LOCATION:** Elkins Public Library (Community Room)  
160 Doolin Drive  
Elkins, AR 72727

**CLASS DURATION:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, August 22  
9:00 am – 4:30 pm, August 29  
(exam session follows end of 2nd class)

**TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASS, CLICK [HERE](#)**

**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL CLASS INFORMATION,**

**CONTACT BERNIE – K5XS**  
**[k5xs@aol.com](mailto:k5xs@aol.com)**



# THE SUMMER 2026 BVRC GENERAL LICENSE CLASS!

ARRL Certified Instructor, Stephen – N5ZE  
has announced the convening of the  
2026 Summer BVRC General License Class:

**CLASS DATES:** Saturday, August 1 and Saturday, August 8, 2026

**CLASS LOCATION:** Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA)  
3424 S. Downum Road  
Springdale, AR

**CLASS DURATION:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, August 1  
9:00 am – 4:30 pm, August 8  
(exam session follows end of 2nd class)

**TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASS, CLICK [HERE](#)**

**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL CLASS INFORMATION,**

**CONTACT STEPHEN-N5ZE**  
**[stponder@gmail.com](mailto:stponder@gmail.com)**

# BVRC VE REPORT FROM DON BANTA – KSDB BVRC VE COORDINATOR JULY 2026



## ***Congratulations!***

Jim Hodges – KJ5QXV – New Technician!

Kyle McDaniel – KJ5RFL – New Technician!

Mirabella Boyer – KJ5RFQ – New Technician!

David Peavy – KJ5REN – New Technician!

Bob Riggle – N5RIG – New General!

Robert Presley – KFØWAX – New General!

Derek Hughes – KC5VWO – New Amateur Extra!

### **Next month's exam sessions**

- **August 8, 2 pm – Bella Vista Public Library, 11 Dickens Place, Bella Vista**
- **August 8, 10 am – Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, 118 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale**

***If you wish to test, you must register for an exam session.***

***To register, and for additional instructions,  
go to the 'TESTING' tab on the BVRC website:***

**<https://bellavistaradioclub.org/testing/>**



# TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BELLA VISTA area RADIO CLUB:

## Are you an ARRL Member?

## If not, why not join the over 140,000 members of the ARRL?



*BVRC is proud to be an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Special Service Club which requires at least 50% of BVRC members to also be members of the ARRL. However, we have members who have not yet joined. In case you are unaware, the yearly membership fee for the ARRL is \$59.00 (just \$4.90/month). Among many, many other benefits, this membership includes a subscription to QST, the iconic flagship publication of amateur radio, which each month includes great articles about all facets of our hobby. The first issue of QST was published in December 1915.*

Whether you've been licensed for forty years or earned your Technician license last month, you've probably heard someone mention the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Perhaps you've wondered if membership is really worth it. After all, amateur radio offers countless ways to participate without belonging to any national organization.



The truth is that the ARRL isn't just another club. It serves as the national association for amateur radio in the United States, advocating for the interests of all licensed operators while providing education, technical resources, emergency communications support, and a sense of community that benefits the entire hobby. *Even operators who never become members benefit from the League's work.*

One of the most important reasons to support the ARRL is its role in protecting the radio spectrum.

Every frequency allocation enjoyed by amateur operators today exists because someone worked to obtain it and continues to defend it. Commercial interests, government agencies, and emerging technologies constantly seek additional spectrum for their own purposes. Without a strong voice representing amateur radio, portions of our bands could gradually disappear.

Recently, Joel Harrison – W5ZN, past ARRL President, past President of the Arkansas DX Association, and current Secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) recently made this statement to ADXA members, but can be applied to all of us:

“Your ARRL membership is critically important beyond the DXCC award program. There is no other organization in the United States – NONE – that promotes and defends the amateur radio service at the FCC, in Congress, and many other agencies and organizations. Internationally, ARRL is a vital member of the International Amateur Radio Union team defending amateur radio at the International Telecommunications Union and at World Radiocommunication Conferences that have the authority to take the radio spectrum, shuffle it like a deck of cards, and hand it out to whoever they see fit.

Let me state this one more time – there is no other organization in the United States that does this – NONE! If amateur radio is important to you, then ARRL should be just as important. Oh, you say you don’t like ARRL because of some of the decisions that have been made? Well, I served on the ARRL board for 22 years and four years as ARRL President, and it may come as a shock that I didn’t agree with everything either! Collectively, though, the ARRL board reaches decisions based on member input and has maintained a strong amateur radio service for over 110 years.”

The ARRL regularly represents amateur radio before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Congress, and international telecommunications organizations. It reviews proposed regulations, files comments on behalf of amateurs, and works with lawmakers to preserve the spectrum needed for experimentation, emergency communications, education, and public service.



ARRL Headquarters – Newington, CT

Learning in amateur radio never stops.

After earning a Technician license, many operators pursue General and Amateur Extra privileges. Others become interested in digital communications, satellites, antenna design, contesting, weak-signal operation, emergency communications, microwave experimentation, or homebrewing equipment.

ARRL publications provide reliable technical information covering nearly every aspect of the hobby. Books, operating manuals, licensing guides, and technical references have helped generations of hams improve their skills.

One of the most respected resources remains *QST*, the League's monthly magazine. Filled with equipment reviews, construction projects, technical articles, operating tips, contest information, and amateur radio news, it continues to be a valuable educational tool for operators of every experience level.



ARRL Headquarters Station – W1AW

When disasters strike, amateur radio has repeatedly demonstrated its value.

Hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, and other emergencies can disrupt commercial communications systems. Amateur radio operators often provide backup communications for emergency management agencies, hospitals, shelters, and relief organizations.

The ARRL supports emergency communications through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®), providing organizational structure, training materials, and coordination resources for volunteers nationwide. Although emergency communications represent only one aspect of amateur radio, they remain an important public service that showcases the unique capabilities of licensed operators.

One reason amateur radio has remained relevant for more than a century is its emphasis on experimentation.

Many innovations in communications technology began with curious amateurs willing to build antennas, modify equipment, design circuits, or explore new operating modes.

The ARRL encourages this spirit of innovation through technical publications, laboratory testing, educational programs, and engineering resources. Equipment reviews published by the League are respected because they include objective laboratory measurements alongside practical operating evaluations.

For operators interested in understanding how equipment actually performs—not simply what manufacturers advertise—these resources are invaluable.

The ARRL is our voice in Washington.

Federal regulations affecting amateur radio change over time.

Whether the issue involves antenna restrictions, RF exposure rules, licensing requirements, interference concerns, or spectrum management, amateur operators need knowledgeable



representation. The ARRL employs experienced regulatory specialists who monitor developments, prepare technical comments, and advocate for policies that benefit the amateur community.

Without a coordinated national organization, individual operators would find it much more difficult to influence regulatory decisions.

Every experienced amateur remembers someone who helped them get started.

Perhaps it was an Elmer who explained propagation, loaned equipment, or helped build a first antenna. Maybe it was a local radio club that administered an exam or introduced contesting.



The ARRL supports youth programs, school radio clubs, teacher resources, licensing initiatives, and educational outreach that encourage new operators to join the hobby.

The future of amateur radio depends upon attracting new generations of experimenters, communicators, and public-service volunteers.

It's easy to focus on the tangible benefits of ARRL membership:

- QST magazine + 3 other publications, On The Air, QEX, and NCJ
- Technical publications
- Educational resources
- Operating awards
- Contest support
- Product discounts
- Regulatory updates
- Specialized programs
- Special weekly bulletins
- The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service
- Alias ARRL e-mail service
- Free member license renewal or modification assistance
- Amateur license testing
- Emergency Communications support
- Conventions
- Continuing education

These benefits certainly provide value. However, perhaps the greatest benefit is helping sustain the organization that works every day on behalf of amateur radio.

Membership dues help fund advocacy, education, spectrum defense, technical research, youth outreach, and emergency communications programs that benefit the entire amateur community.

Many of us invest thousands of dollars in radios, antennas, towers, feed line, test equipment, computers, and accessories.

*Compared to those investments, annual ARRL membership represents a relatively modest contribution toward protecting the future of the hobby itself.*

No organization is perfect, and members may occasionally disagree with individual decisions or policies. Healthy discussion is part of any member-driven association. Yet participation gives members the opportunity to influence the organization's direction while supporting its broader mission.



Portion of W1AW antennas

Amateur radio has always been more than making contacts. It is about experimentation, education, public service, international goodwill, and lifelong learning. Organizations like the American Radio Relay League help ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy those same opportunities.

Whether your passion is DXing, contesting, Parks on the Air, Summits on the Air, emergency communications, digital modes, satellites, CW, homebrewing, or simply chatting with friends on the local repeater, the work performed by the ARRL supports the environment that makes those activities possible.

If you've been considering membership but haven't yet joined, now may be a good time to take another look. Supporting the League is, in many ways, an investment not just in an organization—but in the continued strength, vitality, and future of amateur radio itself. If you're not an ARRL member, you're missing out.

To view all the membership options:

<https://www.arrl.org/membership#dues>

To apply for a new membership or renew your current membership:

<https://www.arrl.org/membership>

(If you join the ARRL, please notify BVRC Treasurer Marc-WØKYZ at e-mail [almarc11yahoo.com](mailto:almarc11yahoo.com). Thanks!)



## WELCOME NEW BVRC MEMBERS!

Denise Snow - KEØKRH - Bella Vista  
Dale Green - AF6OE - Fayetteville  
Tim Rulo - KJ5QQO - Bella Vista  
Michael Burns - KJ5QFZ - Pocola, OK  
Anthony Hudson - KJ5CKK - Lincoln  
Logan Cowie - KJ5QXC - Fayetteville  
Derek Hughes - KC5VWO - Huntsville  
Mirabella Boyer - KJ5RFQ - Siloam Springs  
David Peavy - KJ5REN - Centerton  
Kyle McDaniel - KJ5RFL - Jasper, AR

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## BVRC Club Station Task Force Conducts Phase-2 Meeting

The BVRC Club Station Task Force met on Sunday afternoon, July 5, for discussion of Phase-2 of the station. The Phase-1 completion included installations of the tower, rotator, antennas, feedlines, radio, computer, monitor, and accessories. Phase-2 topics and plans for the station included an update on current station status, plans for the possible physical setup changes within the ALETA facility due to design changes of the station room during remodeling, constructing remote station operation capability, and plans to establish a core team of station coaches.

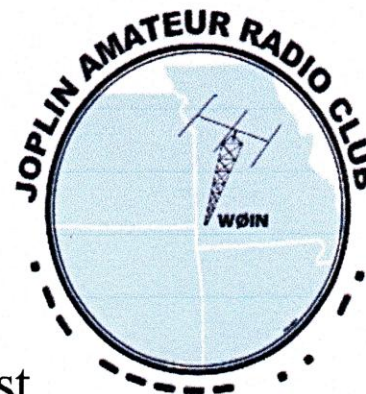
Plans for Phase-2 include the following:  
Installation of the Kenwood TS-590 transceiver, thus equipping the station with two HF radios. – The 6-meter antenna to be connected. – Configuration of the station following the arrival of a new ALETA 2-person console. The new console will enable ALETA to interact and collaborate with BVRC, with amateur radio communication on one side of the console and ALETA on the other side operating A-WIN. – Antenna switching, additional coax drops, power outages, lightning strikes, & other station related items were discussed.



Stan gave a remote demonstration of his contest station in the Cayman islands, showing the radio, rotator, and computer can be operated easily by remote. The task force consists of (L to R in above photo) Gregg Harrison-K5GKH, Jan Hagan-WB5JAN, Roger Dickey-KJ4QIS, Tom Northfell-W5XNA, Sharron Edmondson-KC5SKY, Marc Whittlesey-WØKYZ, Kathy Bromley-WQ5T, Jay Bromley-W5JAY, Stan Stockton-K5GO, and (taking the photo) Don Banta-K5DB.



# Joplin



*Amateur Radio Club, Joplin, Missouri*

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**Get more information about the hamfest and discounted ticket pricing on the website**

**Buy tickets and tables online at <http://www.joplinhamfest.org>**

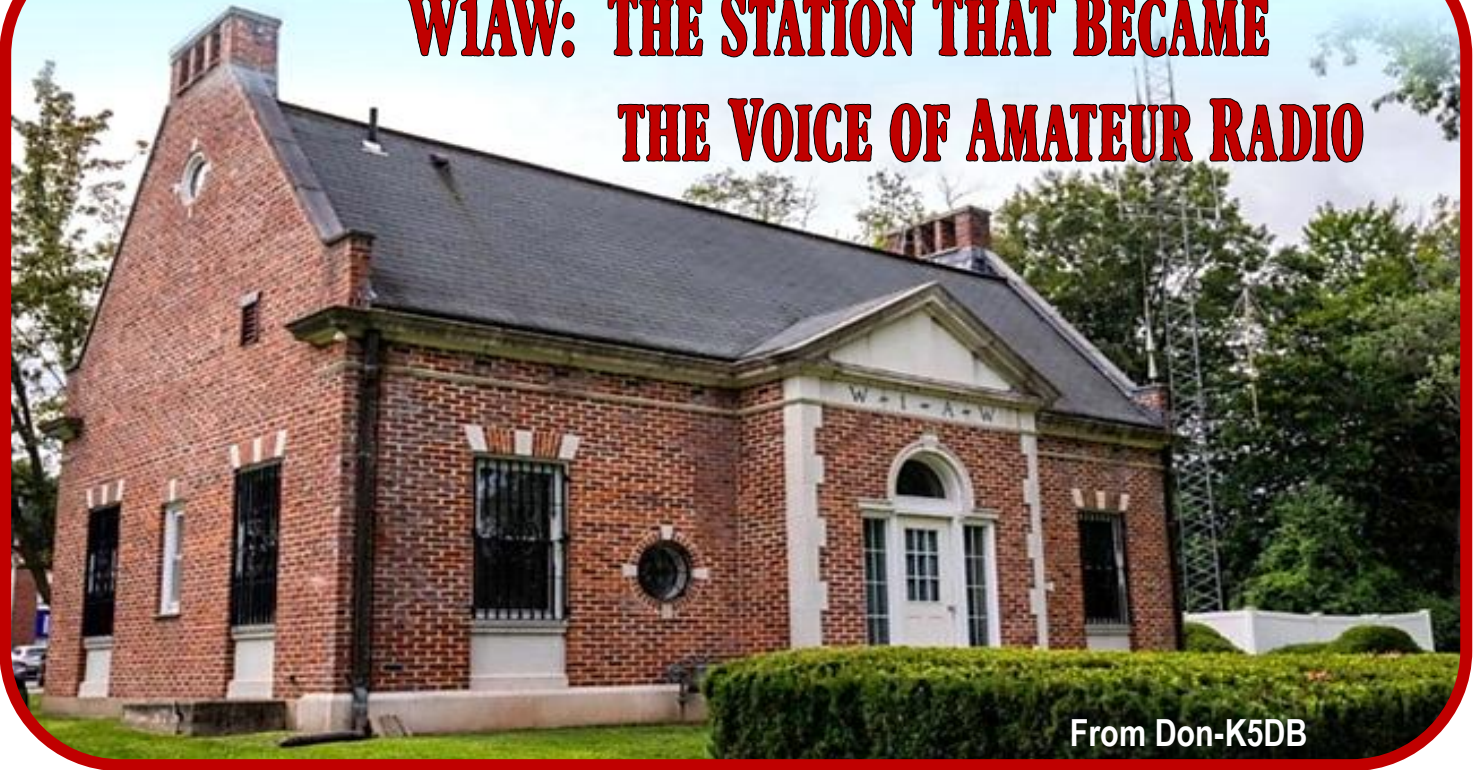
**CONTACT INFO: JARC, PO Box 2983, Joplin, MO 64803-2983 / Call 417-781-2211**

**Sponsored by the Joplin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

**The Joplin Hamfest is an ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest**

**The JARC is a 501-c-4 Not for Profit Corporation**

## W1AW: THE STATION THAT BECAME THE VOICE OF AMATEUR RADIO



From Don-K5DB

Long before podcasts, livestreams, and instant messaging connected communities across the globe, there was a steady, unmistakable signal rising from Newington, Connecticut. To generations of amateur radio operators, hearing the call sign W1AW meant more than receiving a transmission – it meant connecting with the heart of amateur radio.

Known officially as the ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station - located adjacent to ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT - W1AW has spent nearly nine decades informing, educating, and inspiring radio amateurs worldwide. It is a working station, a living museum, a training facility, and a symbol of the enduring spirit of amateur radio.

The story of W1AW begins during one of the most difficult periods in the history of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). In February 1936, ARRL co-founder and longtime president Hiram Percy Maxim — known affectionately throughout the amateur radio community as "The Old Man"—died unexpectedly at the age of 66. Just weeks later, catastrophic flooding along the Connecticut River destroyed the League's headquarters station, W1MK located at Hartford's Brainard Field, leaving virtually nothing behind.

The Board of Directors decided that a new station be built on a more suitable site in memory of President Maxim. In December 1936, the FCC--in the first action of its kind--assigned President Maxim's former personal call, W1AW, to ARRL in memoriam. A 7-acre site was purchased in the sleepy town of Newington, about 5 miles southwest of Brainard Field.

The Maxim Memorial Station W1AW was dedicated on September 2, 1938. The dedication ceremony was broadcast nationally by radio. The new building sat alone while the town grew up around it. Then, in 1963, the new ARRL

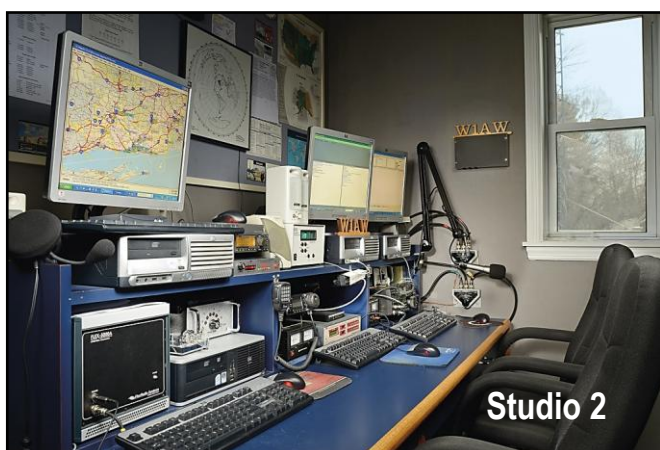


Headquarters building was added to the site. W1AW underwent a major interior renovation in 1988-89, and the roof was replaced in 1996. Exterior brick and concrete were repaired in 2000 and again in 2021. Thanks to careful attention to the building's historical significance, the exterior looks much as it did at its 1938 dedication.

## More Than a Building

At first glance, the modest brick building hardly resembles one of amateur radio's most famous stations. Its traditional architecture reflects the era in which it was built.

Inside, however, visitors discover a fascinating blend of history and technology. Historic transmitters stand alongside modern equipment capable of operating on multiple amateur bands simultaneously. Memorabilia from the earliest days of the ARRL—including artifacts belonging to Hiram Percy Maxim—remind visitors that today's sophisticated digital stations grew from humble beginnings of spark transmitters and hand-built equipment. Three professionally equipped operating studios allow licensed visitors to make contacts using one of the world's most recognized amateur radio call signs. For many hams, operating W1AW is a lifelong ambition.



## The World's Classroom

Perhaps no service has had a greater influence on amateur radio education than W1AW's Morse code practice transmissions. For decades, aspiring operators tuned in to improve their code proficiency, gradually increasing their copying speed as they prepared for licensing examinations.

Even after Morse code testing was eliminated from U.S. licensing requirements, the practice sessions remained popular among enthusiasts who appreciate CW as both a practical operating mode and a cherished tradition.

In addition to code practice, W1AW continues to transmit news bulletins, technical information, and digital bulletins on a regular schedule across multiple amateur bands. These broadcasts provide operators with timely information while simultaneously demonstrating operating excellence and technical standards.

W1AW has always represented more than operating skill.

Visitors quickly discover that every aspect of the station reflects careful engineering and thoughtful design. Modern antenna systems, multiple operating positions, emergency power capability, and carefully maintained radio equipment demonstrate best practices that countless amateurs have incorporated into their own stations.

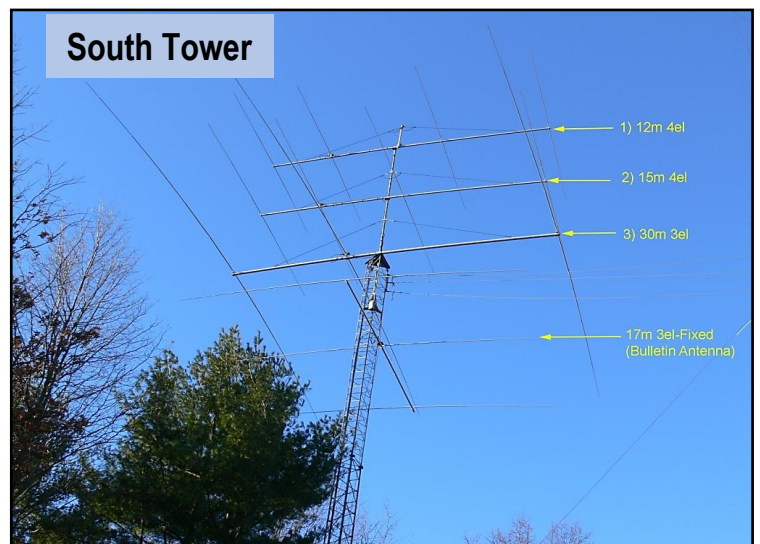
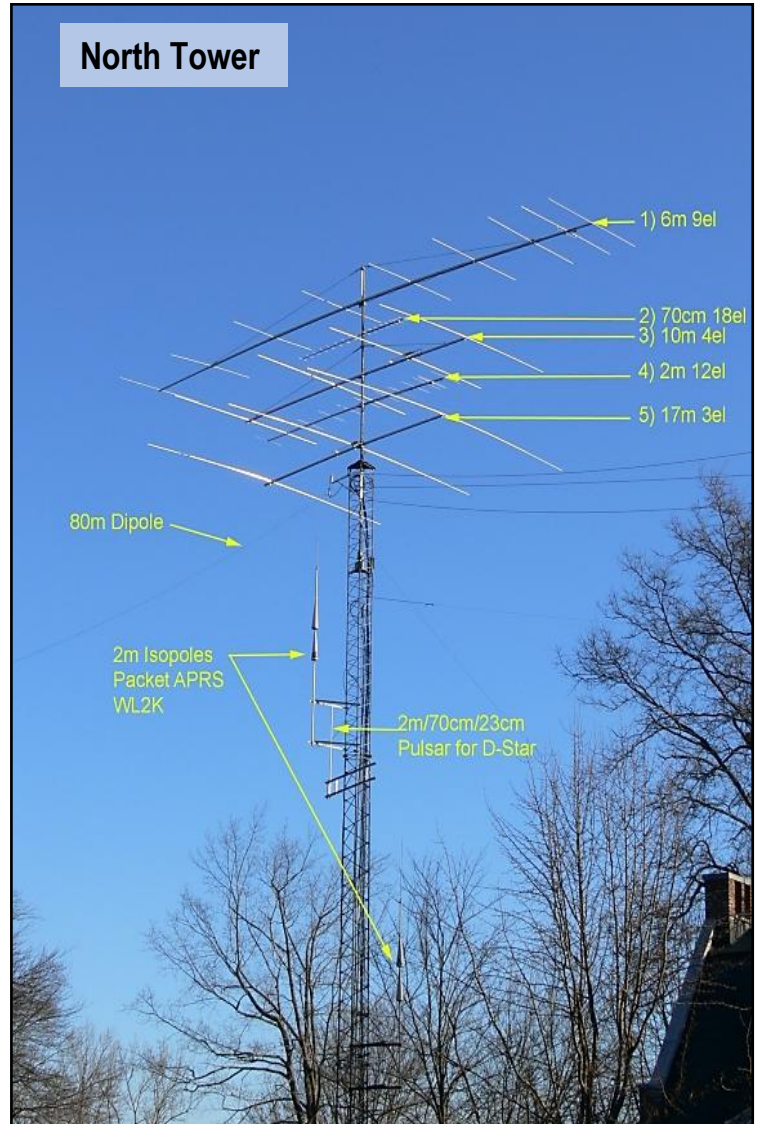
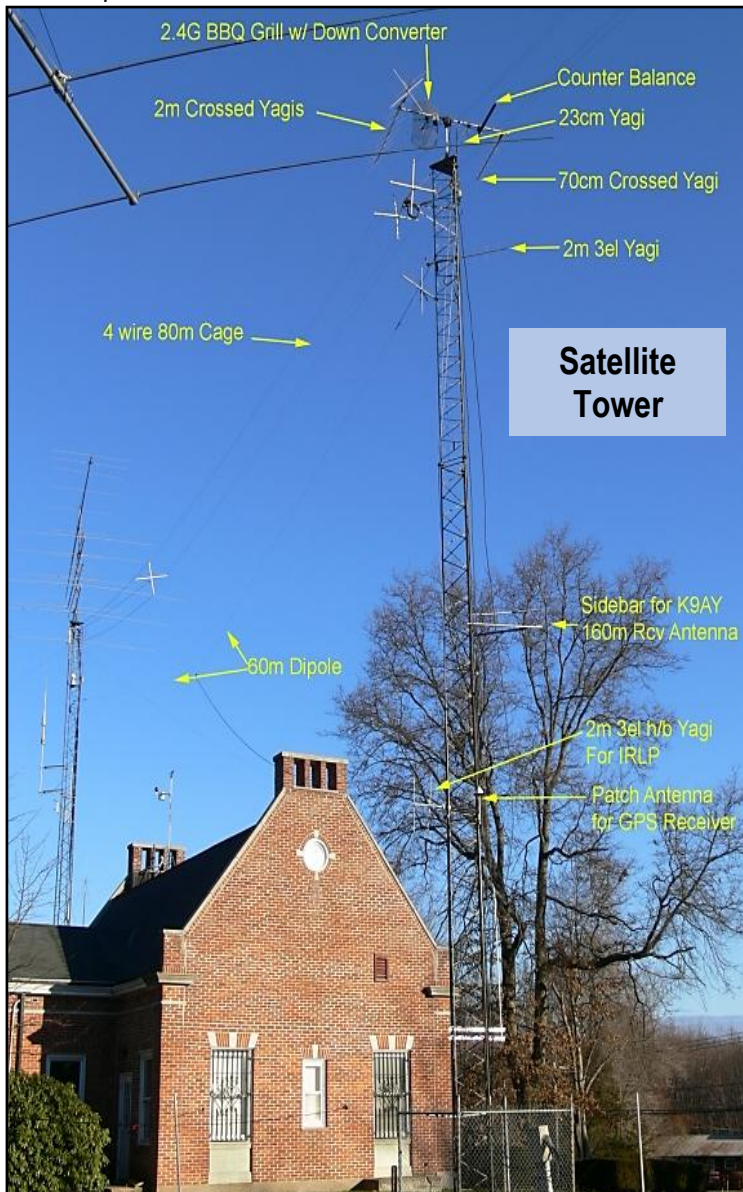


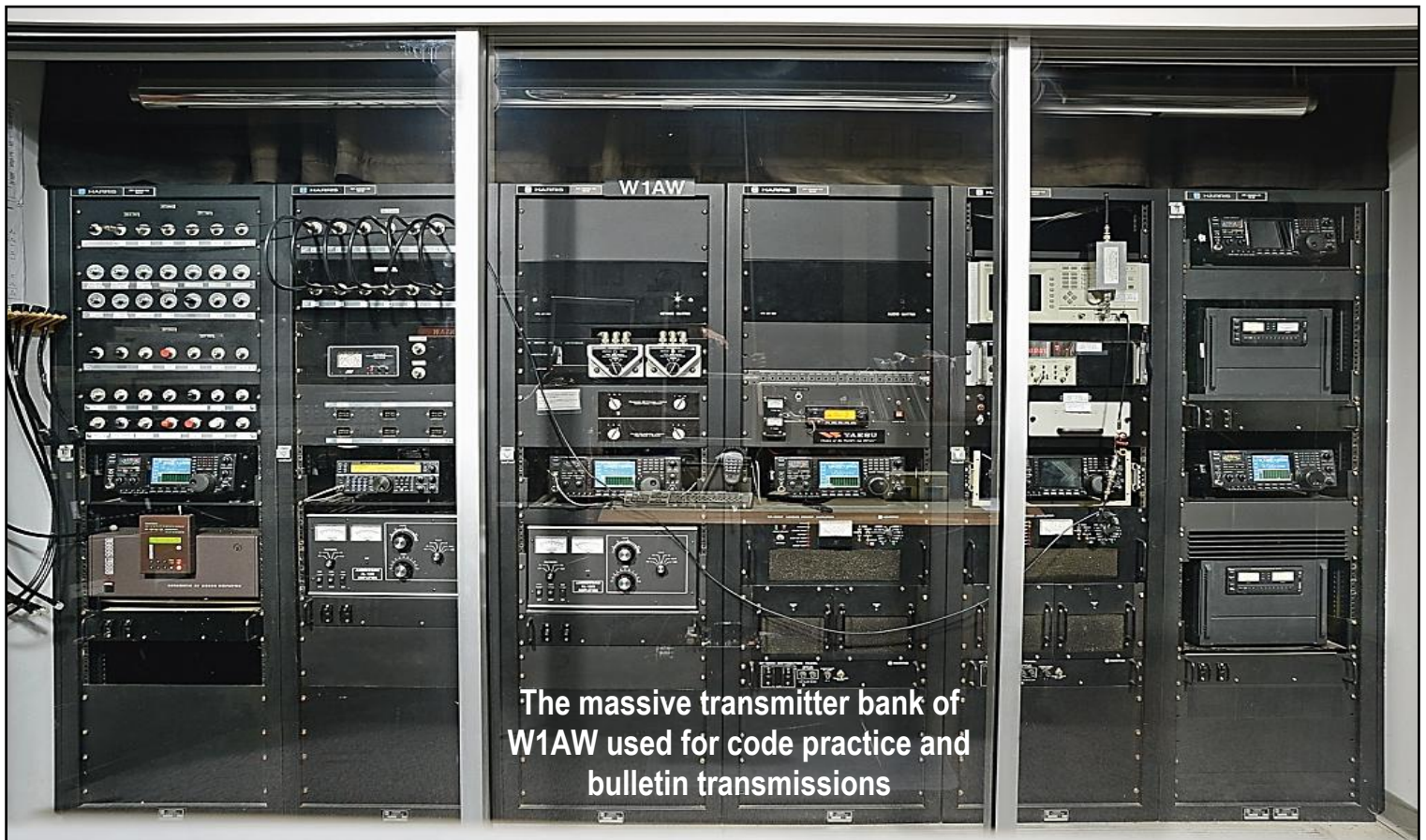
The station also serves as an ambassador for amateur radio. School groups, newly licensed operators, international visitors, and experienced DXers all walk through its doors with the same sense of anticipation. Few leave without a deeper appreciation for both the technical and human dimensions of the hobby.

Although many know W1AW for its educational broadcasts, the station also plays a significant role during emergencies. When disasters disrupt normal communications, W1AW can increase the frequency of its bulletins, providing critical information to amateur operators across the country. This capability reflects one of amateur radio's oldest traditions: serving the public when conventional communication systems are compromised. Its reliability has made W1AW one of the most respected voices on the amateur bands.

For many radio amateurs, visiting W1AW is comparable to visiting a historic observatory or aviation museum. Operators who have heard its familiar call sign for years finally experience the station firsthand, often making contacts from its operating positions and leaving with a commemorative QSL card or lasting memories of working from amateur radio's flagship station.

The station's location beside ARRL Headquarters also offers visitors a broader perspective on the League's role in education, advocacy, publications, and technical development.





The massive transmitter bank of W1AW used for code practice and bulletin transmissions

Then, there's "Old Betsy" .....

"Old Betsy" is a historic rotary spark-gap transmitter that once belonged to Hiram Percy Maxim, the co-founder of the ARRL and the original owner of the W1AW station call sign.

Key facts about Old Betsy:

- It is a non-synchronous rotary spark-gap transmitter. A motor spins four electrodes at approximately 2,500 RPM past stationary electrodes, creating sparks that generate broad-spectrum radio energy. This was an early method for sending Morse code before modern CW circuitry existed.
- Maxim originally installed the transmitter in the basement of his Hartford, Connecticut, home in the 1920s. It was moved to the W1AW lobby, where it was used for demonstrations until 1989.
- After sitting silent for nearly 24 years due to damage, W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia restored Old Betsy to working order in 2013. He repaired the high-voltage capacitor, cleaned the motor, and installed a safe low-voltage keying system.



"Old Betsy"

I have worked W1AW many times during contests, special events, or for just a short QSO.

But the most exciting QSO I ever had with the station was when BVRC's own Elmer 911 Coordinator Vinson Carter-WV5C was a guest operator at the station during his attendance at headquarters of an ARRL Instructor's training class and workshop:



If you would like to hear the QSO, click [here](#).

## The Legacy Lives On

Technology has transformed amateur radio since W1AW first took to the air in 1938. Spark transmitters gave way to vacuum tubes, which yielded to transistors, software-defined radios, digital signal processing, satellite communications, and internet-linked operating modes.

Yet despite these dramatic advances, W1AW remains remarkably true to its original mission.

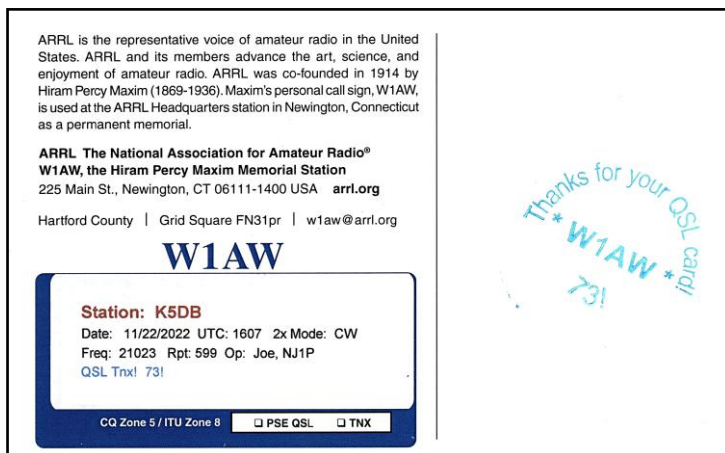
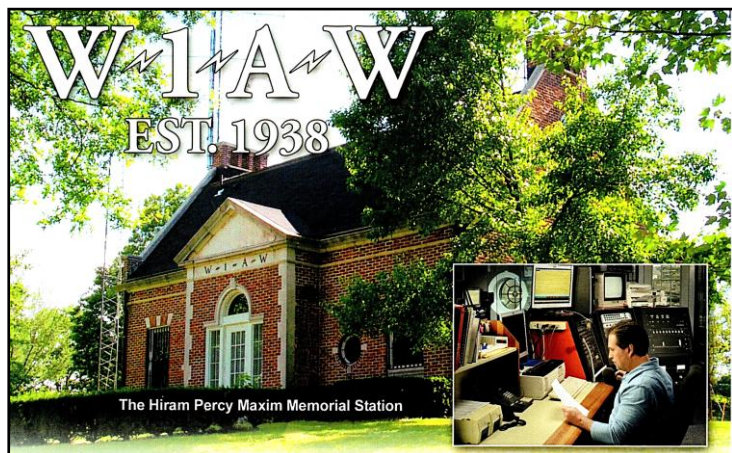
It continues to educate.

It continues to communicate.

It continues to inspire.

Every bulletin, every Morse code practice session, every visitor contact, and every special event remind operators that amateur radio is not merely about equipment or frequencies—it is about people connected through curiosity, service, and a shared passion for communication.

Nearly ninety years after its dedication, W1AW is still doing exactly what Hiram Percy Maxim envisioned: bringing radio amateurs together, one signal at a time.



One of my W1AW QSL cards from a QSO in 2022

Yes, BVRC programs, events, and equipment are important components of our club. Yet there still remains the most important ingredient that has caused our club to flourish - its members...YOU!

One of the greatest strengths of amateur radio is the willingness of operators to share what they've learned. Whether you've just earned your license or have decades of experience behind the rig, your story can help another ham discover something new.

In the recent past, the newsletter has had some wonderful contributions along with our splendid "Experimenter's Corner". But, The Signal is always looking for new articles from club members. You don't have to be a professional writer or technical expert. If you have something that interests you, chances are another member would enjoy reading about it!



Here are just a few ideas for articles:

- A recent POTA, SOTA, or field operating adventure
- Building or modifying an antenna
- A successful station upgrade
- Contest experiences
- Restoration of vintage equipment
- New ham experiences and lessons learned
- Favorite operating techniques
- Book, equipment, or software reviews

Articles can be as short as a single paragraph with a photo or as long as several pages with diagrams and detailed explanations. Don't worry about making everything perfect. We can handle the basic editing and formatting during the newsletter production process. *The important part is sharing your experience.*

If writing isn't your favorite activity, that's okay too. Send in a few photos with captions, along with a brief description, or simply share an interesting operating story. Even a "how I solved this problem" note can become a valuable article for fellow members.

Nothing excites me more when it comes to the newsletter, than to have one of our members submit an article, short story, or experience they've had in our wonderful hobby.

Don't be bashful...send it in! We look forward to hearing from you!

Send your story to The Signal Editor, Don-K5DB at: [arsk5db@gmail.com](mailto:arsk5db@gmail.com)

# ARRL / BVRC Field Day 2026: The Best Yet!



*Feature  
Story*

Photos courtesy of W5BNL, WB5JAN, and K5DB

Every June, parks, campgrounds, schoolyards, and emergency operations centers across North America come alive with the sounds of amateur radio. Temporary antennas rise into the sky, operators gather around radios, and thousands of QSOs are made across the continent. This annual event, known as ARRL Field Day, is much more than a contest – it is a celebration of amateur radio, public service, and emergency preparedness.

Organized by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Field Day has been a tradition since 1933 and remains the most popular on-the-air event in amateur radio. Held every fourth full weekend of June, it brings together licensed amateur radio operators, clubs, families, and curious visitors for 24 hours of continuous operating under simulated emergency conditions.

This year's BVRC Field Day was especially looked forward to, as for the first time in club history, the three main operation stations shared the same antenna, an 8-element tri-band beam constructed by Stan Stockton-K5GO, using a tri-plexer. This configuration totally eliminated intrastation interference.

Another welcome change was Mother Nature's leniency on the temperature. The FDs of the past several years have always yielded highs in the 90s, but this year the club was blessed during setup, operation and take



The crowd begins to gather at BVRC Field Day 2026

down with temps in the mid-80s. At night, the temp dropped to the low 70s which made for a wonderfully comfortable operating environment during the post-setup Field Day contest.

But contesting is not what Field Day is totally about.

At its core, Field Day is an emergency communications exercise. Participants set up temporary radio stations away from their normal operating locations and rely on emergency power sources such as generators, batteries, or solar panels, as well as having the option to operate the stations from commercial mains. The central theme of setting up a Field Day site is to demonstrate how amateur radio operators can quickly establish reliable communications when conventional systems fail, and BVRC really shines in this department.



Tom-KN4SLP and Dana-KI5TGY manning the Welcome Tent



**The tri-band beam goes up  
with K5FUV's excellent 6-meter beam in the background**

communications resource during such emergencies. Field Day provides operators with an opportunity to practice deploying equipment, operating in challenging conditions, and contacting stations hundreds or even thousands of miles away.

While BVRC Field Day includes elements of friendly competition, it differs from traditional radio contests. Participants earn points by making contacts with other amateur radio stations across North America and occasionally DX. Additional points are awarded for activities that emphasize emergency preparedness, public education, and community outreach.

This year's portable tower (also courtesy of K5GO...thanks Stan!) complete with the beam for 20-15-10 meters and Yaesu rotator with the tower setting on a heavy-duty hinge plate constructed by Dr. Bill Durham-KG5ZCI (thanks Dr. Bill!), went up safely and without a hitch (same result with takedown).

For the low bands during the evening and through the night, the club utilized two end-to-end dipoles for 80 and 40 meters.

Natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and floods can disrupt cellular networks, internet service, and electrical infrastructure. Amateur radio has long served as a backup

BVRC displays a wide range of technologies and operating modes during Field Day, from voice communications to CW (Morse code) to sophisticated digital systems to satellite communications.

The result is a dynamic learning environment where experienced operators serve as Elmers (mentors) for newcomers and demonstrate the versatility of modern amateur radio.

One of the most appealing aspects of BVRC Field Day is its welcoming atmosphere. We treat the event as a community gathering, complete with educational demonstrations, antenna-building workshops, a welcoming booth with displays, and of course, encouraging operators – new and old alike – to enjoy the invigorating experience of making contacts with whichever mode station they feel comfortable with.



**A small group enjoys K5DVT's pontification prior to the start of Field Day**

Our visitors often discover that amateur radio is far more advanced than they expected. Today's operators mostly use computers, digital messaging systems, and innovative antenna technologies alongside the traditional modes of voice and CW. Field Day provides an opportunity for the public to see these technologies firsthand and learn how amateur radio continues to evolve in the digital age.

For those interested in becoming licensed operators, Field Day offers a chance to get on the air at our GOTA station under the supervision of licensed control operators and experience the excitement of making contacts (sometimes their first!) across the country or around the world. Some come prepared, having studied their license manual, and take advantage of BVRC's special VE license exam session during Field Day.



Field Day also serves as a valuable training exercise. Operators gain practical experience with station setup, power management, troubleshooting, and communication protocols. These skills can prove invaluable during real emergencies.

Probably the most key factor of BVRC Field Day is the friendships and camaraderie that develop during the event. Many of our club members spend months planning their Field Day operations, and the weekend itself

becomes a social gathering that strengthens bonds within the amateur radio community.

Our veteran operators share their knowledge with newcomers, while younger participants gain exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts through hands-on activities.



combines technology, public service, and global communication.

As antennas rise and radios crackle to life each 4th weekend in June, ARRL Field Day and the Bella Vista area Radio Club continue to highlight the enduring value of amateur radio – bringing our communities together while preparing for the unexpected.

Once again, BVRC Field Day experienced over 100 members, invited guests, and visitors. If you couldn't attend this year's FD extravaganza, mark your calendar for June 26-27, 2027 and we'll see you there!

Enjoy these other great moments from this year's BVRC Field Day on the following pages and.....

**You can view even more Field Day photos by clicking**

**<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xfQFDKS3Nn4M2ovo7>.**



Phone station captain Robert-K5NZV monitors Jase-KJ5OJE with Lanna-N5ALG, Ryan-K5HEX, and Brad-KJ5CWR looking on.



GOTA station captain Don-K5DB with KNWA-TV meteorologist and guest operator Josh Ruggar just prior to Josh kicking-off Field Day 2026 with BVRC's first contact.



All the way from Fort Smith, here's BVRC's Rebecca-N5REB logging for her son Jackson-KJ5EVI. Both great members and great operators.



BVRC's Carlas!  
Carla-KI5KTE (L) and Carla-KJ5LTG



The Junior ROTC color guard from Bentonville West High School honored BVRC with their stellar presentation of the colors in club's traditional opening ceremony. (On the right is BVRC's own Canaan Johnson-KJ5EMJ!)



The GOTA station's 4BTV vertical



GOTA station captain Don-K5DB preps young guest operators Graham Alexander, Benjamin Byrd, and Canaan Neveraz before making their very first QSOs on amateur radio.



FD Chair Tom-W5XNA displays the Arkansas Governor's proclamation



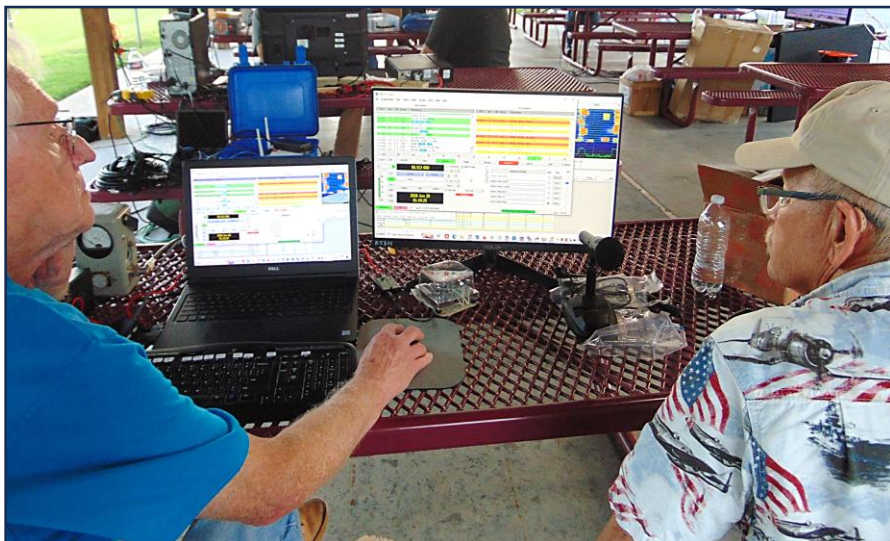
Lanna-N5ALG makes another station happy with an Arkansas FD QSO



Some of the BVRC CW station team (L to R) – Nick-WA5BDU, station captain Chuck-KM5G, David-W5TN, David's XYL, and Stan-K5GO.



Joe-W5AEN presents Jerry-W5JDB with the 2026 BVRC Field Day Newcomer Grand Door Prize – a complete Kenwood station and antennas!  
**CONGRATULATIONS JERRY!**



Bill-K5FUV and Tom-W5BNR at the 6-meter FT8 VHF station



Dana-K15TGY, Tom-KN4SLP, and Tom-W5XNA converse with general public visitors



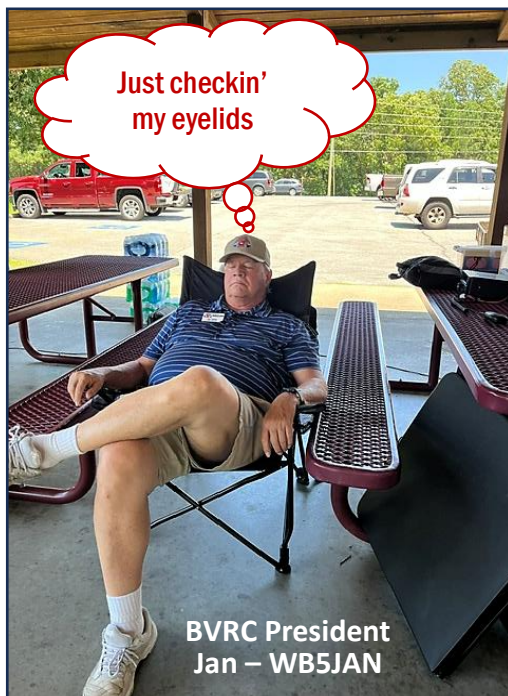
FT8 HF station captain Michael-W5KMK (R) and Chuck-NS5C (L)



BVRC Social Media Coordinator Alex-K15EQK lends a hand with the grill for the annual evening meal



# FIELD DAY GUFFAWS



Thanks to everyone who supplied equipment, antennas, accessories, food, and above all, their time, effort, and talents.....And especially, our Field Day Coordinator Tom Northfell – W5XNA!!!!

*You are appreciated!!!*



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