



# The NKARC Feedline



A Monthly Newsletter Brought To You by The Northern Ky Amateur Radio Club

October 2025



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Visit our Club Website at: <https://nkarc.org>

Visit our Facebook Page at: NKARC-Official

Join our Groups.IO Page: NKARC-Public



### NKARC Club Officers & Contacts

#### **Position**

#### **Name**

#### **Contact Info**

|                                |                      |                                                              |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| President                      | Todd Sayers, KY4TLS  | <a href="mailto:ky4tls@nkarc.org">ky4tls@nkarc.org</a>       |
| Vice President                 | Rod Milligan, KY4ROD | <a href="mailto:ky4rod@nkarc.org">ky4rod@nkarc.org</a>       |
| Director At Large              | Frank Austin, KI4QFL | <a href="mailto:ki4qfl@nkarc.org">ki4qfl@nkarc.org</a>       |
| Treasurer                      | Tim Lawrence, W4TWL  | <a href="mailto:w4twl@nkarc.org">w4twl@nkarc.org</a>         |
| Secretary                      | Doug Cooper, KE4DTC  | <a href="mailto:ke4dte@nkarc.org">ke4dte@nkarc.org</a>       |
| ARRL NKY-VE Test Lead          | Jack Prindle, AB4WS  | <a href="mailto:ab4ws@nkarc.org">ab4ws@nkarc.org</a>         |
| ARRL KY Sect Youth Coordinator | Mark Volstad, AI4BJ  | <a href="mailto:mvolstad@twc.com">mvolstad@twc.com</a>       |
| Net Manager                    | Al Van Dyke, WB8RGE  | <a href="mailto:wb8rge@gmail.com">wb8rge@gmail.com</a>       |
| NKARC Feedline Editor          | Rod Milligan, KY4ROD | <a href="mailto:ky4rod@nkarc.org">ky4rod@nkarc.org</a>       |
| Webmaster                      | Sean Waldrip, WA9SAW | <a href="mailto:webmaster@nkarc.org">webmaster@nkarc.org</a> |

### Club Mailing Address:

**NKARC**  
**PO Box 354**  
**Union, KY 41091**

### Meeting Location and Time:

**Bethesda Community Church**  
**989 East Mount Zion Road**  
**Independence, KY 41051**

*All are Welcome! All members and guests are strongly encouraged to attend in person to promote networking, fellowship and to grow trust and camaraderie.*

We meet 7:00 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, FCC License examinations are held at 5:30 PM before the meeting (See VE Testing session section of this newsletter for details).



### In This Month's Newsletter



- NKARC Club Membership Info & Payment Options.
- Help NKARC with the ARRL Club Commission Program.
- ARETNKY - KY6ET Kroger Community Rewards Program.
- NKARC Club Nets Information.
- Amateur Radio Contesting Calendar and Information Links.
- This Month's NKARC Business / Presentation Meeting (Beginners Guide to Meshtastic) – Oct 20th @ 7pm.

- The next KY6ET ARETNKY meeting will be Monday Nov 24th at 530 PM (Business Meeting) / 7PM (Training Event), plus current KY6ET News.
- Upcoming NKARC Meeting Presentations Oct 20th – Beginners Guide to Meshtastic / Nov 17th – No Presentation scheduled at this time.
- Regular NKARC Monthly Scheduled Events – Weekly Chili Lunches and our Monthly NKARC Breakfast Meet at Log Cabin Inn on Saturday Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 9 am- 1030 am.
- Upcoming Special Amateur Radio Event - NKARC POTA Event at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site US-3772 on Saturday Oct 11th at 10 AM.
- Upcoming Special Amateur Radio Event - Honor Run Half Marathon 2026 – Sunday Nov 9th at 7:00 AM.
- NKARC Christmas Party (Takes the Place of the Dec Meeting) Golden Corral / Florence Mon Dec 15th @ 7 PM
- News from the Feedline Editor - Rod Milligan / KY4ROD
- Election Committee Report: Upcoming NKARC Club Officer Elections – November 17th 2025
- Next NKARC VE Testing Session Date/Time: Monday Oct 20th @ 530 pm.
- NKARC VE Testing Report
- Effects of the US Government Shutdown on the NKARC VE Testing Program.
- How you can help with passage of HR1094/ S459 legislation known collectively as Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 to allow all Hams the right to install antennas and operate from their homes in HOAs and the ability to assist in times of disaster.

 **NKARC Membership Info** 

Membership to the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club is open to anyone who has an interest in Amateur Radio. Dues are \$25.00 per year for licensed amateurs and \$15 for each additional household member. If you want to become part of this great club, please [download the membership application](#), fill it out and either turn in in at our monthly meeting or you may mail it to:

NKARC  
P.O. Box 354  
Union, KY 41091

Membership dues can be paid in person by cash or personal check. Membership dues run January through December each year.

 **ARRL Club Commission Program** 

If you are a current ARRL Member or you are looking to becoming an ARRL Member, you can help NKARC financially by participating in the ARRL Club Commission Program. The [ARRL Club Commission program](#) is an ARRL Affiliated Club Benefit that provides revenue benefits to your club when club members become new ARRL Members or renew their existing ARRL Membership.

**Each new ARRL STANDARD membership earns the club a \$20 commission from the ARRL** (family, student/youth, and blind memberships are not eligible). **Each Membership Renewal earns the club a \$5 commission from the ARRL.** Multi-year memberships only receive a single commission (same amount as a standard single year membership). New members are defined as never having been an ARRL member or a

returning member that has not been a member of the ARRL for two years or more. There is no limit to the amount of commission a club can earn in this program. The commission to the club costs you (the member) - nothing additional. Here is how to participate in the program:

**\*\*\* Important \*\*\* Your ARRL Membership must be submitted through the club in order for NKARC to earn the commission. Joining the ARRL directly by the club member earns no commission for the club!**

1. Each new or renewing ARRL member should fill out a [membership application form](#) (at this link)
2. Payment in **FULL** can be made to ARRL by check, credit card, or cash. You may mail the application to the Club PO Box, or you may submit it in person at our monthly meeting. If you pay by credit card please put your credit card info in the appropriate fields on the application form.

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT: If you plan to join the ARRL and pay by check, DO NOT make the check out to NKARC, please make the check out to ARRL.**

3. The club leadership will submit all of the Membership Application Forms, Forms of Payment to the ARRL, along with the required Club Commission Reconciliation Form to the ARRL. The applications are submitted to the ARRL by the club once a month usually within a week after our monthly meeting.
4. ARRL will process the applications when received and NKARC should receive a commission payment within two to three weeks of ARRL receiving the forms.

**Please consider taking advantage of the ARRL Club Commission Plan it is a great way to help NKARC raise additional revenue for the Club and it costs you nothing more than a standard ARRL membership fee!**

 **ARETNKY - KY6ET Kroger Community Rewards** 

You can now help fund our sister organization - The Amateur Radio Emergency Team of Northern KY – KY6ET by shopping at Kroger with your Kroger Plus Card. This program costs you nothing, Kroger typically donates 5% of your purchase to the non-profit organization that you select. Each participating household has the ability to earn up to \$300 per quarter to your designated non-profit organization. The minimum payout to the organization is \$25.00 and Kroger limits its total quarterly reward up to \$50K per organization. To participate in the program, Kroger customers need to register their Kroger Plus card to their preferred community non-profit organization. **The Amateur Radio Emergency Team of N Kentucky (KY6ET)'s organization Number is "TL332"**. To sign up follow the following steps:

1. On your web browser go to <https://krogercommunityrewards.com>
2. Sign into your Kroger Plus Card Account under the Sign In icon in the upper right-hand corner of the web page using your email account and password registered with the Kroger Plus Program. Once signed in you will see instructions on the page instructing you how to sign in. Go to Step 2 of the instructions "Link Your Card to an Organization."
3. Under step 2 – Click on the Link "Search for your Organization here"
4. Enter your Organizations number **TL332** and Search for the organization - Amateur Radio Emergency Team of N KY will come up.
5. Select **Enroll**
6. Once enrolled you should get a confirmation screen showing your selection.

See the screen shots below for details. You are now setup and ready to go and start earning rewards for our KY6ET Emergency Team!

The Kroger family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we serve and help the people there live healthier lives.

One of the ways in which we do this is through our Kroger Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

- 1. Create a digital account.**  
A digital account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.
- 2. Link your Card to an organization.**  
Selecting the organization that you wish to support is as simple as updating the Kroger Community Rewards selection on your digital account.
  1. Sign in to your digital account.
  2. Search for your organization [here](#).
  3. Enter the name or NPO number of the organization you wish to support.
  4. Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".Your selected organization will also display in the Kroger Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account details.
- 3. Your organization earns.**  
Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.

If you have any questions, please contact our [Customer Service Center](#).

**Find an Organization**

Filter by type of Organization:  
All

Search Results

Organization Name  
**Amateur Radio Emergency Team of Northern KY**

Organization Address  
**1409 Mount Zion Rd  
Union, KY 41091**

[Enroll](#)

**Donation Summary**

Status:  
**enrolled**

Organization Name:  
**Amateur Radio Emergency Team of Northern KY**

Enrollment Date:  
**05/05/2025**

Organization Number:  
**TL332**

[Change Organization](#)

[Cancel Enrollment](#)



## Club Net Information



**Weekly 2m NKARC Net:** This net is held Tuesdays at 8:30 PM local time on the 146.79 WB8VOA Repeater (minus) - 600 Khz Offset with a PL tone of 123 Hz. Net Controllers and Net Loggers rotate each week monthly; a scheduled Net Controller / Net Logger list is published each month.

**Monthly NKARC 2M Simplex Net:** This net occurs on the 1st Sunday of each month at 6 PM on Simplex Frequency 146.580. **(Our next Simplex Nets will be Sunday Oct 5th and Sunday Nov 2nd @ 6 PM).** Join us in this fun event as we participate in a simplex net to practice and develop our communication skills without the use of repeaters. Please remember this net uses relayed check-ins and the more people we get to check in, the better the chances of us getting further out into the Tri-state area.

New Net Control Ops are always welcome. If you want to help out, or gain experience as a net control operator for either net, please email Al Van Dyke at [wb8rge@gmail.com](mailto:wb8rge@gmail.com). The Net Control announcement scripts can be found and downloaded in the files section on NKARC – PUBLIC groups.io.



## Amateur Radio Contesting Calendar Links and Information



**ARRL Contesting Information for 2025 is listed at the link below:**

<https://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

**WA7BNM's Contest Calendar 2025 is listed at the links below:**

**Home Page:** <https://www.contestcalendar.com/index.php>

**State QSO Party Contest Calendar:** <https://www.contestcalendar.com/stateparties.php>

**12 Month Perpetual Contest Calendar listing all contests (both ARRL & Non-ARRL affiliated):**

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php>

**Alphabetical Contest Calendar:** <https://www.contestcalendar.com/alphabetical.php>

### POTA Official Event Calendar

Please note that the POTA organization currently recognizes 5 “Official” Events: New Years Week and the 4 Support your Parks Weekends Seasonal Events – Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. POTA discontinued their Plaque Award Events in 2023. Official events and dates are listed at the link below:

<https://docs.pota.app/docs/events.html>

**State Parks On The Air** are considered “Un-Official” events sponsored by private group sponsors, they are eligible for POTA credits for hunters, & activators, however event certificates come from the event sponsors & not POTA. The easiest way to find an event is to search for the event on the Alphabetical Contest Calendar link above. These are **Un-Official events** and **NOT** listed on the POTA site and **NOT all states have State Parks On The Air Events.**

**NG3K Amateur Radio Contesting Resource Links:**

<https://www.ng3k.com/Contest/>

## **Up-Coming Special Events & Contests of interest:**

10-10 Intl 10-10 Day Sprint

For Details: <https://www.ten-ten.org/qso-party-rules/>

Oct 10 00:00Z – 23:59Z

QRP ARCI Fall CW QSO Party

For Details: <http://qrparci.org/contest/fall-qso-party>

Oct 11 00:00Z – 23:59Z

10-10 Intl Fall CW Contest

For Details: <https://www.ten-ten.org/qso-party-rules/>

Oct 18 00:01Z – Oct 19 23:59Z

Run For The Bacon QRP CW Contest

For Details: <http://qrptest.com/pigrun/>

Oct 19 23:00Z – Oct 20 01:00Z

### **ARRL School Club Roundup**

**For Details: <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>**

**Oct 20 13:00Z – Oct 24 23:59Z**

CQ World Wide DX Contest

For Details: <https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

Oct 25 00:00Z – Oct 26 23:59Z

YBDXPI World Wide FT8 Contest

For Details: <https://contest.ybdxpi.net/rules/>

Nov 1 00:00Z – Nov 2 23:59Z

ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contest

For Details: <https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Nov 1 21:00Z – Nov 3 03:00Z

Walk For The Bacon QRP CW Contest / 40M and 20M

For Details: <https://qrptest.com/pigwalk20/>

40m Contest: Nov 6 00:00Z – 01:00Z / Nov 7 02:00Z- 03:00Z

20m Contest: Nov 20 00:00Z – 01:00Z / Nov 21 02:00Z – 03:00Z

ARRL Phone SSB Sweepstakes Contest

For Details: <https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Nov 15 21:00Z – Nov 17 03:00Z

Ham Spirit CW / SSB Contest

For Details: <https://hamspiritcontest.ru/rules-ham-spirit-contest-2025/>

Nov 15 07:00Z – Nov 16 06:59Z

Run For The Bacon QRP CW Contest

For Details: <http://qrpccontest.com/pigrun/>

Nov 16 23:00Z – Nov 17 01:00Z

North American SSB Spirit Contest

For Details: <https://ssbsprint.com/rules/>

Nov 23 00:00Z – 04:00Z

CQ World Wide CW DX Contest

For Details: <https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

Nov 29 00:00Z – Nov 30 24:00Z

**State QSO Parties:**

Nevada QSO Party

For Details: <http://nvqso.com/contest-rules/>

Oct 11 03:00Z – Oct 12 21:00Z

Arizona QSO Party

For Details: <https://www.azqp.org/>

Oct 11 15:00Z – Oct 12 05:00Z

Pennsylvania QSO Party

For Details: <http://paqso.org/pa-qso-party-rules.html>

Oct 11 16:00Z – Oct 12 04:00Z and Oct 12 13:00Z – 22:00Z

South Dakota QSO Party

For Details: <http://www.sdqso party.com>

Oct 11 18:00Z – Oct 12 18:00Z

New York QSO Party

For Details: <https://www.nyqp.org/>

Oct 18 14:00Z – Oct 19 02:00Z

Illinois QSO Party

For Details: <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/>

Oct 19 17:00Z – Oct 20 01:00Z



## Next Scheduled NKARC Business / Presentation Meeting



### Meeting - Monday Oct 20th, 2025

The next scheduled NKARC Business / Presentation meeting is scheduled for Monday Oct 20th at 7 PM at:

#### **Bethesda Community Church**

**989 East Mount Zion Road  
Independence, KY 41051**

Presentation at our meeting to be given by David Mefford – KY4DM – **“Beginners Guide to Meshtastic”**

Join us for this interesting and engaging look at Meshtastic by David Mefford – KY4DM. David will be here with an introduction to Meshtastic presentation. Meshtastic is a text only communication service using inexpensive devices, communicating via LoRa. David will cover what it takes to get started in Meshtastic and offer insights for beginners. The talk will be kept short to allow time for questions, and for assistance in setting up devices. If you have a device you are encouraged to bring it, but having one is not required. David will discuss what Meshtastic is, use cases for it, and cover installing firmware on devices and getting on the air.



## Next Scheduled ARETNKY (KY6ET) Meeting



### Meeting - Monday Nov 24th, 2025

The next scheduled ARETNKY KY6ET meeting is scheduled for Monday November 24th at 5:30 PM (Business Meeting) with Club Officers and other interested members followed by the Training Session at 7 PM. The meeting will be held at the:

#### **Bethesda Community Church**

**989 East Mount Zion Road  
Independence, KY 41051**

After much consideration, conversation, and discussion, to make the organization more transparent, participatory, and time efficient the following change has been made to the bi-monthly meeting for the Amateur Radio Emergency Team of Northern Kentucky, KY6ET.

The Officers of the club will convene the meeting at 5:30 PM Eastern Time at the Bethesda Community Church for the Business Meeting. Everyone is welcome, and Team leaders, and team members are encouraged to attend. At 7 PM Eastern Time Sharp the Business Meeting Portion will close, and the Training Committee will immediately convene the training portion of the meeting.

This should allow the training team to have adequate time for their training sessions, while allowing the general membership to keep up with the business proceedings of the organization if they are interested.

We look forward to seeing all members at the November 24th, meeting with the Officers at 5:30 PM and others interested, and the rest at the Training Session at 7 PM. The subject of the training session will be announced later date.

The last KY6ET event in September was Winlink, currently exercises are being sent out for members to participate in a Winlink exercise from the Training Team. A link for the WinLink, Zoom Presentation as well as the Winlink Exercise is available on the KY6ET Groups.IO site. Also, a new group has been formed to work on creating a Communications Plan for KY6ET.

 **Upcoming NKARC Meeting Presentations** 

**Meeting - Monday Oct 20th, 2025**

Presentation at our meeting to be given by David Mefford – KY4DM – **“Beginners Guide to Meshtastic”**  
Join us for this interesting and engaging look at Meshtastic by David Mefford – KY4DM. David will be here with an introduction to Meshtastic presentation. Meshtastic is a text only communication service using inexpensive devices, communicating via LoRa. David will cover what it takes to get started in Meshtastic and offer insights for beginners. The talk will be kept short to allow time for questions, and for assistance in setting up devices. If you have a device you are encouraged to bring it, but having one is not required. David will discuss what Meshtastic is, use cases for it, and cover installing firmware on devices and getting on the air.

**Meeting - Monday Nov 17th, 2025**

**No presentation is currently scheduled at this time in November due to Club Officer Elections for 2026. If someone has an idea for a presentation, or wishes to volunteer to present we may be able to accommodate a short presentation at that meeting.**

 **Regular Monthly Scheduled Events** 

**Weekly Chili Lunches**

Every Tuesday of the month we meet at a different local Skyline Chili 10:45 till 12:30. Arrive early to avoid sitting at the “kids table”! For right now her is the current schedule of locations:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday – Walton 260 Mary Grubbs Highway, Walton, KY 41094
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – Florence Turfway – 1345 Hansel Ave, Florence, KY 41042
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Hebron – 1960 Litton Ln, Hebron, KY 41048
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Florence Industrial – 7340 Industrial Rd, Florence, KY 41042
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Independence – 1968 Declaration Dr, Independence, KY 41051

**Monthly NKARC Saturday Breakfasts**

These breakfasts occur generally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. This month’s meet will be at the Log Cabin Inn Restaurant located at 322 Madison Pike Covington, KY on Oct 18th from 9 AM – 10:30 AM.

Join us for good food, friendship and conversation at either a Chili Lunch or Breakfast!



## Upcoming NKARC Field Trips and other Amateur Radio Special Events



### **NKARC POTA Event – Saturday Oct 11, 2025 at 9 AM – US-3779 Big Bone Stare Historical Site**

NKARC will hold a Parks on the Air Special Event at US-3779 Big Bone Lick State Historic Site located off KY 338 in Big Bone, KY. This site is a 2-Fer site US-3779 Big Bone Lick State Historic Site / US-4572 Lewis and Clark Trail. This will be a great event for members who are interested learning more about in the Parks on the Air and see an actual POTA Activation. We previously had another POTA event at this site in May and it was a great success. Members who have never operated a POTA activation will have a chance operate one of our stations, see the various radio and antenna setups. At Big Bone Lick, we will operate at the top of the hill near the Baker Cemetery. The site is located at the top of the hill near the park's campground, follow the signs to the campground, the POTA site and the Baker Cemetery is located on the left just before reaching the campground. Setup will begin around 8 am and we will plan on operating from 10 AM until about 2 PM. If you would like to try an activation, please set up an account on <https://pota.app/> a head of time. If you have trouble doing this or need help, contact Jack - AB4WS or Tom – NV4H and they will assist you and we will have a couple stations set up.

Contact Jack Prindle – AB4WS [ab4ws.ky@gmail.com](mailto:ab4ws.ky@gmail.com) for more details.

### **Florence Honor Run Half Marathon – Sunday November 9th @ 7 AM.**

The event will be Sunday November 9th 2025 at 7:00 AM. The event will start and end once again under the famous Florence Yall water tower. It will once again feature the 13 mile half marathon and also include 5k, and 10k runs which will begin shortly after the start of the main race. The event will begin at 07:00 that morning. Operators will need to be on their post by 6:15 as Florence PD will shut down all traffic along the course. The early stations in the event are finished between 9:00-10:00 while the later stations are finished around 11:00. All proceeds from this event go toward Honor Flight Cincinnati which funds the cost of the flight from CVG to Washington DC for Veterans and one guest to see the memorials built in their honor. This is a fun event and a great event for the community and the veterans and a great event to exercise our communication skills and as we saw last year it helps us prepare to be used in less than ideal weather conditions if necessary.

This year's event is once again being coordinated by Tim Lawrence / W4TWL. Tim can be contacted by sending him an email to [w4twl@yahoo.com](mailto:w4twl@yahoo.com). Tim will do his best to put everyone back in their same positions as last year. If you would like to try another position just let Tim know and he will do his best to accommodate. If you are new to public service and would like to participate but have never worked a public service event no problem, just let Tim know and he will be more than happy to pair you up with a veteran operator. If you would like to participate in the event just Tim know by email, likewise if you know someone who may not be aware of this event and may be interested have them contact Tim. Once Tim has a final count on who will be participating, he will send out the assignment maps, parking passes, frequency list, etc. Tim usually sends out the assignments, maps, parking passes and frequency list on the Monday before the event.

## **NKARC Christmas Party – Dec 15th 7 pm**

The annual NKARC Christmas Dinner Party is tentatively scheduled for Monday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This party will take the place of our normal December meeting. The party will be held at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Florence (Located in front of the Lowes Home Improvement Center). The address is 4770 Houston Road Florence, KY 41042.

**If you have any other activity suggestions or for a field trip you would like to take, please contact any member of the NKARC Leadership Team.**



**News From the Feedline Editor... Rod Milligan - KY4ROD**



It's been a very busy past couple months for me with things going on in my personal life with multiple trips for me to NW Indiana to care for my father and my in-laws. There is some light at the end of the tunnel for now, I am eagerly looking for my life returning normal, at least for the next 6 to 8 weeks. My father's surgery had a few complications but he has come through it and his slowly re-cooperating. He has one more upcoming surgery yet to go we anticipate it will take place sometime after Thanksgiving into mid-December.

This month we will be presenting our candidates for Club Office at our meeting. Right now, we have at least one candidate nominated for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Director at Large, but still need at least one nomination for Secretary. We are still (at the time of this writing) looking for a candidate for our club Secretary position. This position is vital to the club and it must be filled. If you feel so inclined, please give thoughtful consideration to stepping up and volunteering to fill this the position. I want to extend a special "Thank You" to all current club officers for their service to the club this past year.

This month at our meeting we are fortunate to have one of our new members, David Mefford – KY4DM, presenting a topic to the club that will be an interest to many members – "Introduction to Meshtastic". A few of our members have already experimented with Meshtastic, but the vast majority of members have not and Meshtastic remains a mystery to many of them. David will cover what Meshtastic is, the use cases for it, cover installing firmware on devices and getting it on the air. If you have a Meshtastic device you are encouraged to bring it, but having one is not required. This presentation promises to have something for everyone, it will provide insights to beginners, as well as members who already have some familiarity with the devices. David, Thank You for stepping up and volunteering to give this presentation to the club!

This month's US Government Shutdown will alter our VE Testing process but it will not shut us down. We will continue offering tests to new candidates for ham licenses and well license upgrades to existing licensees. Our ARRL VEC has communicated with our VE Team Lead Jack Prindle and has sent out modified testing procedures that we will use until the time that the government re-opens and the FCC once again begins processing license applications and issuing licenses. Details on the modified process as well as the official notice from the ARRL are listed further down in the newsletter in the VE Testing section.

Now onto a subject that should concern all hams. For years hams living in HOAs have had restrictions applied to them which prohibited them from installing antennas on their property. This intern either severely restricted their range or prevented them to operating from their homes. In a lot of cases, it has forced hams to operate VHF/UHF only without any HF capability. As a result, many hams have had to live with severely compromised or stealth antennas hidden in attics or within their homes because HOAs would not allow them to install antennas outside

on their property. The ARRL has worked to create and file a pair of bills sponsored by congressmen to eliminate these restrictions in HOAs. There is 2 separate bills - HR1094 in the US House of Representatives and S459 in the US Senate that would ban these restrictions in HOAs and give homeowners the same exceptions for external antennas on their properties that are granted to over the air, satellite television and wireless internet providers. These bills are collectively called the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025. Full details of this bill can be read at:

<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-launches-nationwide-grassroots-campaign-to-pass-amateur-radio-emergency-preparedness-act-1>

Why this legislation affects everyone, not just those living in HOAs:

**Emergency Preparedness:** The primary purpose of the legislation is to ensure amateur radio operators can perform their vital role in emergency communications when other systems fail. This function is for the benefit of the entire community, not just HOA residents.

**Equal Rights for Antennas:** The Act seeks to provide amateur radio operators with the same rights already granted to homeowners for installing other antennas, such as those for TV, satellite dishes, and wireless internet, and even flagpoles.

**National Impact:** While restrictions are most common in HOAs, the legislation is designed to provide a national standard for antenna access, benefiting all amateur radio operators and strengthening the overall amateur radio emergency response capability.

**Broader Community Support:** The ARRL is urging all amateur radio licensees, not just those in HOAs, to contact their congressional representatives in support of the bill. This call to action underscores that a stronger amateur radio service benefits everyone by improving disaster preparedness and public safety.

The ARRL has developed an online tool that allows amateurs to participate in this effort for passage of this legislation. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN ARRL MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT OR USE THIS ONLINE TOOL.** By going to this website, you can simply fill in your callsign, the form will auto-populate your information and create letters on your behalf to your US Senators and US Representatives encouraging them to back passage of HR1094 and S459, which makeup the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025. The letters will be auto-generated by the website and hand delivered to your members of congress. This bill must pass both the House and the Senate before going to the President for his signature. **Using this online tool takes literally only 2 minutes or less of your time.** I encourage everyone to participate in this effort. The tool is located at: <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>. More details are available in a specific article later on in this newsletter.

As a reminder to everyone the ARRL School Club Roundup begins on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> and runs through Oct 24<sup>th</sup>. The hours of operation will be Oct 20 13:00Z – Oct 24 23:59Z. Our local Dixie Heights High School Amateur Radio Club in Edgewood KY - KY4DH will be participating in this contest. Look for posts on our groups.io site for operating times and frequencies for this event. NKARC has several Elmers who coach and help out the club. Please try to participate in this event by contacting the Dixie Heights students. In the past few years KY4DH has done very well in the standings for this event, please help the students out by making contacts with them.

I would like to continue to encourage you to volunteer and contribute to the club whether it be just your time or your talents to help out and mentor our members. Mentoring is something that benefits everyone, not just the “newbies”. In this hobby we are all constantly learning. During the time when I was studying for my exams and

testing... I remember a wise mentor once told me: *“Learning and passing your exams to get your license is just the start of your journey, do not be overly concerned about not knowing everything right away... getting your license is not the end of your journey... it’s only the beginning... treat your license as a license to continue learning!”* We are all continually learning along the way, everyone benefits from a mentor, whether you are just starting out or an experience operator.

*If you have an interest in a ham related activity, a training session on a specific topic, a special event or a social event for the club such as a field trip, please make it known to the club leadership. The club leadership will do its best to make the event happen, if we do not hear from you, we don’t know what your likes, dis-likes, needs or interests are. We do our best and try to always provide something for everyone, but without your input, we are leading you blindly without your input and suggestions. We request your input for suggestions for presentations, activities and field trips, we want to make this club **YOUR CLUB**, that serves **YOUR INTERESTS**, but without your input we cannot make this happen.*

We are **always** in need of volunteers to do presentations at the monthly meetings, if you would like to volunteer as a presenter or if there is a special topic you would like to see presented, let me or another member of the club leadership know and we will try to accommodate the request either by finding a speaker or publishing an article about it in the Feedline.

We also welcome our members to submit guest articles for publishing in the Feedline. I would like to continue to encourage members to get involved and participate by thoughtfully considering to submitting a guest article for the Feedline. The guest article is a great way to share knowledge between members and foster participation in the newsletter. I would encourage everyone to try and submit something. You do not have to feel like an accomplished author or that your submission has to be something technical in nature... It does not! Rules for submitting a” Guest Article” are as follows:

- Submit your article in either MS-Word format or plain text format so where it can be easily added to the newsletter and converted to pdf format.
- Guidelines for articles are a minimum of 1 decent sized paragraph up to 1 or 2 pages. Articles may be simply text or may include a mixture of text and pictures. In the case of several short submissions, more than 1 submission may be published in the same issue at the editor’s discretion. In the case of a very long article, the article may be broken up in sections and published as a multi-part article over a couple months, again this is at editor’s discretion.
- Deadlines for submissions will normally be no later than the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month, unless we reach our submission quota earlier. Deadline closure date discretion of the editor. Submissions after the closure date will be considered for the following months publication.
- The Feedline will be published approximately 1 to 2 weeks before our scheduled meeting date each month. Submit your articles via email to [ky4rod@nkarc.org](mailto:ky4rod@nkarc.org).

The Feedline will continue to be distributed via email through groups.io each month.

Finally, in closing, I hope you enjoy this month’s edition of the Feedline Newsletter and you find the information included in it useful. If you have any suggestions or comments on the Feedline, please feel free to put them up on groups.io or email me directly at [ky4rod@nkarc.org](mailto:ky4rod@nkarc.org). I want to extend a special Thank You to everyone for their comments, encouraging words and suggestions!

✓ **Upcoming NKARC Club Officer Elections – November 17, 2025** ✓

Your election Committee is looking for a few good hams. The election nominee slate needs to be presented to the membership and accepted for the October 20th meeting. Our election will be held at the November meeting on November 17th. So, if you became a member of the Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club before November of 2024 you are eligible to serve as an officer of the Club.

The NKARC Constitution says:

In order to hold an office an individual must be a voting member for at least one year and hold a valid Amateur Radio license issued by the FCC.

Officers must be a minimum of 18 years old and of good moral standing.

**Right now we have at least one candidate nominated for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Director at Large, but still need at least one nomination for Secretary. We need someone to step up and volunteer or nominate someone for this vital position.**

Also, just because we have only one nomination doesn't mean that you cannot nominate someone for one of these positions, the more nominees we have, the better mix of candidates we will have to serve the club and help our club improve and grow. If you know someone who would make a good club officer, encourage them to consider running and show your support for them by nominating them for a position.

It is important to have variety and some "new blood" from time to time to introduce new ideas and energy to the club. Our club has made great strides in the past 2 years and it is important that we have leadership who can energize our membership with new ideas to keep our current momentum up and running. To nominate someone please email Jack Prindle – AB4WS or contact any of the other election committee members Robert Krebs – KR4AKX, or Dave Core – K8WDA.

We are looking for nominations for the following officer positions:

**Article III Duties of Officers**

**1. President:**

The President shall preside at all meetings, and conduct them according to the rules adopted. He/she shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents adopted by the club, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of President.

**2. Vice President:**

The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in his/her absence. In addition, he/she shall organize club activities, plan and recommend contests for operating benefits, and advance club interest and activity as approved by the club, as needed. He/she shall maintain close liaison with the local emergency communication organization.

**3. Secretary:**

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and By-Laws of the club and have the same with him/her at every meeting. He/she shall note all amendments, changes and additions on the constitution and shall

permit it to be consulted by members upon request. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings, keep a roll of members, submit membership applications, carry on all correspondence, read communications at each meeting. At the expiration of his/her term he/she shall turn over all items belonging to the club to his/her successor. The Secretary shall keep current any government registration outside financial or tax filings.

#### **4. Treasurer:**

The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all monies paid to the club; keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended; pay no bills without proper authorization. At the end of each calendar quarter, he/she shall submit an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts. At the end of his/her term he/she shall turn over everything in his/her possession belonging to the club to his/her successor. Upon request by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall present current written records within 15 days. The Treasurer shall report or file financial reports with government agencies as required.

#### **Board of Directors**

- a. The Board of Directors serves as leadership of the club. They determine the general direction of the club, make recommendations to voting membership regarding the budget, dues, any by-law changes, and determine event participation.
- b. The Board of Directors consists of the club officers plus a single **Director at Large**.
- c. Board decisions shall be recorded by the Secretary and reported to the membership at the next regular meeting.
- d. Any club account information and passwords shall be stored in a secure manner on a private cloud storage account that all board members can access and will be backed up with at least 2 board members. No account information will be changed without the knowledge of all board members.

#### **Elections**

- a. Officer and Director elections will be held annually at the regular November meeting. Officers and the Director will assume their elected duties January 1 of the following year.
- b. The Director at Large shall be elected at the same time as the Officers and have the same term.
- c. Nominations for elected positions can be made by any member.
- d. Self-nominations are acceptable.
- e. A ballot for the elected positions will be established at the regular meeting one month prior to elections at which time the President will entertain a motion for nominations and to accept the ballot.
- f. Nominations will be closed once the ballot is accepted.
- g. Election voting will be done using secret paper ballots and counted openly in front of the membership.
- h. Any candidate may request a recount of the ballots.
- i. In the case of an unopposed slate, the President may entertain a motion for the Secretary to cast a single ballot.



## Next VE Testing Date / Time



The Northern Kentucky Amateur Radio Club is pleased to sponsor “our very own” ARRL accredited N KY VE Team for testing. Our VE Team offers in-person license exams for anyone interested in earning their first license, and for existing license holders who wish to upgrade. The next scheduled VE Testing Session is scheduled for **Monday Oct 20th at 5:30 PM** at:

### **Bethesda Community Church**

**989 East Mount Zion Road  
Independence, KY 41051**

### **Registration Required**

To attend an NKARC exam session, please register at the link below. Walk-ins are not accepted.

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/NKY-VE>

### **What to Bring**

A list of what you should and should not bring to the exam session can be found at [www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session](http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session). This information is very important -- make sure you read it! Of primary importance is an FCC Registration Number (FRN). If you do not have an FRN, you will not be able to take an exam. If you are upgrading, you must bring proof of your current license.

### **Special Needs Accommodations**

Our team will do their best to accommodate candidates with special needs. Please contact Jack Prindle about arrangements under the contact info below.

### **Fees**

#### ARRL Exam Session Fee

The ARRL charges an exam session fee of \$15, which our testing team collects on their behalf. This fee is reduced to \$5 if the candidate is under 18 years of age. Payment is made at the exam session by cash, check or money order. This fee is not refundable if the candidate fails to pass the exam.

#### FCC Application Fee

The FCC charges a \$35 application fee to all first-time licensees. This fee is paid directly to the FCC. Upon receiving a license application from the ARRL, the FCC will email a link with payment instructions directly to the candidate. The candidate will have 10 calendar days, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed the application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. More information on the application fee can be found here:

<https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>

#### ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program

The ARRL will cover the one-time \$35 FCC application fee for new license candidates younger than 18 years of age for tests administered by NKARC. The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the new license has been issued by the FCC. The reimbursement check will be mailed by the ARRL directly to the fee payer (test candidate).

**Contact Info**

If you have a question that is not covered above, please reach out to the NKARC VE Team Lead, Jack Prindle at [ab4ws@nkarc.org](mailto:ab4ws@nkarc.org) or 859-474-1095.

Please see the NKARC website <https://nkarc.org/exams.html> for additional details. **Note: New candidates who successfully pass their technician class exam will receive a FREE NKARC Club Membership for the balance of the year!**



| 2025           | TESTS Given |         |       | Successful Completions |         |       |
|----------------|-------------|---------|-------|------------------------|---------|-------|
|                | TECH        | GENERAL | EXTRA | TECH                   | GENERAL | EXTRA |
| JAN            | 6           | 3       | 1     | 5                      | 2       | 1     |
| FEB            | 5           | 3       |       | 5                      | 2       |       |
| MAR            | 1           |         |       | 1                      |         |       |
| APR *          |             |         |       |                        |         |       |
| MAY            | 1           | 1       |       | 1                      | 1       |       |
| JUN            |             | 1       |       |                        | 1       |       |
| JUL            | 1           | 5       | 1     | 1                      | 3       |       |
| AUG            | 2           |         | 1     | 2                      |         |       |
| SEP            |             |         | 1     |                        |         | 1     |
| OCT            |             |         |       |                        |         |       |
| NOV            |             |         |       |                        |         |       |
| DEC            |             |         |       |                        |         |       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | 16          | 13      | 4     | 15                     | 9       | 2     |
| <b>SUMMARY</b> | 33          |         |       | 26                     |         |       |

\*\*\* Note: There were no test candidates for the month of April 2025



## VE Testing and the effects of the Government Shutdown



**Please note that the Government Shutdown has affected VE Testing from the standpoint of the FCC is not processing license applications at this time. These procedures will remain in effect until the US Government Shutdown due to the budget is resolved and the shutdown is ended.**

The ARRL is requesting that we continue with testing even with the Government shutdown, and they will temporarily hold all the exam information to feed the FCC. The exam info and results we be placed in a queue until the FCC begins processing license applications again when the FCC comes back to work and the government has re-opened.

New applicants that have passed the test will receive their CSCE certificate of completion, but will not have a valid licensed CALLSIGN issued to them until the Government opens and FCC is back to work, but as soon as that happens their information will be fed to the FCC for license issue. **New applicants will not be able to operate until they have paid their \$35.00 fee to the FCC and have received their call sign from the FCC.**

**Existing licensees who upgrade from Technician to General or Extra and have passed their test will be allowed to operate but will be required to use the /AG or /AE suffix with their call sign since the FCC database will not contain their upgraded license class information.**

QRZ, HAMQTH, HamCall, HamDB and other similar services will not be updated with license information during the shutdown since they receive weekly data dumps from the FCC database and those data dumps will not resume until the FCC returns to work and the government is re-opened.

**It is vital that all testing applicants hold onto their CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination as proof of their license.**

**For more details, please see the Official Statement from the ARRL on the following page.**

# Official Statement on Amateur Radio Licensing Update During the US Government Shutdown from the ARRL



*Original Story 10/1/2025*

*Updated 10/2/2025 (CORES is not available for new registrants)*

*Updated 10/3/2025 (Temporary testing procedures for examinees without FRNs)*

A bulletin sent to members of [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](http://www.arrl.org) included information about the impact of the US Government shutdown on licensing for the Amateur Radio Service. The following information was also included in the *ARRL Letter* and posted on the ARRL website [www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-licensing-update-during-us-government-shutdown](http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-licensing-update-during-us-government-shutdown).

The government shutdown began at 12:01AM Eastern time on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, when Congress had not passed an appropriations bill or other plan to keep the government funded for the new fiscal year (begins October 1).

The Federal Communications Commission, which issues Amateur Radio Service licenses, issued a [Public Notice](#) on Tuesday, September 30, indicating that it would suspend most operations following a shutdown. “Aside from a few emergency and auction filing systems, all other Commission electronic filing systems will be unavailable to the public until normal agency operations resume,” said the FCC Notice.

[ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator](#) (ARRL VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said the FCC systems appeared to go off-line around 1 PM Eastern time on Wednesday, and are redirecting to the Public Notice. This means the FCC will not be processing any amateur radio license applications during the shutdown, which includes individual, club, and exam session (new and upgrade) applications.

“But ARRL Volunteer Examiners should continue giving exam sessions,” said Somma. “Keep doing what you’re doing. Keep serving new and upgrade candidates for amateur radio licenses.” Somma also urged that Volunteer Examiners continue to promptly forward session results from their exams to the ARRL VEC.

“Please do not hold your session results. Send your sessions to us, and ARRL VEC will continue to queue all applications as they are received. Once the federal government reopens, ARRL VEC will promptly resume submitting applications to the FCC for processing. So, keep sending sessions to the ARRL VEC.”

The FCC’s shutdown notice indicated that CORES registration system would remain available for certain activities, but New Registrations are currently not being accepted. This means that new applicants cannot register for an FRN. This has created a temporary barrier for individuals who wish to take an amateur radio exam but do not yet have an FRN. Existing users can still log in and access their accounts and applicants who already have an FRN can test without issue.

### **Temporary Testing Procedure Without an FRN:**

Given the current situation, **ARRL VEC will temporarily allow testing without an FRN (FCC Registration Number)**, with the understanding that:

1. The applicant would take the exam and receive a CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination).
2. Once CORES resumes issuing new registrations, the applicant would:
  - Register for an FRN.
  - Contact the coordinating **VEC** with their FRN.
  - The **VEC** will submit their application to the FCC.

### **In the Exam Tools system candidates without an FRN should:**

1. Use '0000000000' (ten zeros), then select "I don't have an FRN".
2. Complete the session registration.
3. CSCEs will be issued to successful candidates.

### **For teams using paper exams:**

1. Candidates without an FRN should leave the FRN field blank on all forms.
2. CSCEs will be issued to successful candidates.

This approach would preserve momentum for new licensees and avoid delays in testing.

**Note:** Other VEC organizations may also offer similar alternative testing methods. Please check with them directly for their specific procedures.

Please continue to check the ARRL website for updates as they become available.

The FCC's Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) databases are also currently unavailable to the public. ULS and related systems (like the License Manager, License Search, Application Search, etc.) are not accessible during the shutdown. Users cannot file applications with the FCC, or access license data, including address information.

To find an amateur radio exam session, please visit [www.arrl.org/find-an-exam](http://www.arrl.org/find-an-exam). For a list of VE Teams that offer Online Exam Sessions, go to [www.arrl.org/online-exam-session](http://www.arrl.org/online-exam-session).

## Support Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025



### **YOU CAN HELP US CHANGE THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF AMERICAN HAMS BUT, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PASS THIS LEGISLATION!!!**

The ARRL is focused on reducing legal restraints on the ability of American Amateur Radio Operators to engage in the active practice and enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

One of the most insidious and increasing threats to the survival of Amateur Radio and our ability to serve our communities and Nation, as we are required to do by Federal regulation, is the proliferation of private land use restrictions that prohibit the installation of outdoor antennas and that sometimes actually deny Federally licensed Amateurs from operating any amateur radios, regardless of where their antennas are located — in their attics, hidden in trees, or mounted on their vehicles.

Federal law — since 1996 — has guaranteed to every American — except Amateur Radio Operators — the right to erect antennas outside or on their residences for the purpose of TV reception, satellite TV and internet access, wireless internet access and even wireless internet redistribution. But Amateur Radio operators are denied the equal right to erect comparable antennas.

Since 2005 Federal law has also guaranteed to every American the right to proudly display the American Flag by installing flagpoles in their yards. But, despite that right to install vertical poles in their yards — American Radio Amateurs are denied the right to use those vertical flagpoles as vertical antennas.

We believe the denial — to licensed Amateur Radio Operators — of the rights guaranteed to all non-Amateur Radio licensed American homeowners — the right to install antennas on the land they own — is without justification and should not be permitted to continue.

To eliminate these private land use restrictions, the ARRL has worked over the past several years with our elected officials to draft Congressional legislation — H.R. 1094 in the U.S. House of Representatives and S. 459 in the U.S. Senate — that when passed will extend to all Hams the right to operate from their homes and the right to install antennas on the land they own. We have bipartisan support for this legislation.

## How can you help?

**By sending a letter to your Representative and Senators asking that they co-sponsor and support H.R. 1094 and S. 459. How can you send these letters?**

**It is easy and takes less than 2 minutes.**

**You Do Not need to be an ARRL Member to participate in this effort.**

Go to — <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>

Enter your call sign, the form will autofill with your information and automatically address the letter to your senators and representatives.

Then click on “Send My Letters” and your letters will be delivered to our Washington legislative team for hand delivery to your Representative and Senators.

### **Does your individual letter matter? YES.**

Your Representatives and Senators need to know that the passage of this legislation is important to you.

Your letter could be the difference in whether we are able to pass H.R. 1094 and S. 459.

Go to — <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/> — and help us by sending your letters to your Representatives and Senators.