



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

IN-NEWSLETTER

Covering December 02 – December 08, 2023

*Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R
and edited by Executive Assistant Danielle Bialoglowy*

Upcoming Meetings and Events

[Rookie Roundup](#) CW | December 17

Christmas (HQ closed) | December 25

New Years Day (HQ closed) | January 1

[Straight Key Night](#) | January 1

[Kid's Day](#) | January 6

[RTTY Roundup](#) | January 6 – 7

[North American QSO Party](#) CW | January 13 – 14

New Vice Director Orientation | January 17

Board Committee Meetings | January 18

Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors | January 19 – 20

[North American QSO Party](#) Phone | January 20 – 21

[January VHF Contest](#) | January 20 – 22

[Winterfest](#), hosting the ARRL Midwest Division Convention, Collinsville, Illinois | January 27

[North American Sprint](#) CW | February 4

[Orlando HamCation](#), hosting the ARRL Florida State Convention, Orlando, Florida | February 9 – 11

[North American Sprint](#) RTTY | February 10

[School Club Roundup](#) | February 12 – 16

[ARRL International DX Contest](#) CW | February 17 – 18

Presidents' Day (HQ closed) | February 19

[North American QSO Party](#) RTTY | February 24 – 25

[Greater Houston Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL West Gulf Div. Convention, Rosenberg, Texas | March 1 – 2

[ARRL International DX Contest](#) Phone | March 2 – 3

Retail Sales and Marketing Operations

Reported by Jackie Ferreira, KB1PWB, and Jason Leonard

November product sales were \$322,451, exceeding the \$313,270 forecast. Direct sales were \$147,411; dealer sales were \$175,040.

Point of sale signs for the new [25th edition ARRL Antenna Book](#) were sent to Ham Radio Outlet for displaying in their storefronts.

Draft designs for Section and Division logos are being finalized.

Work has been ongoing to complete revisions to direct marketing materials (print and email) for membership, so these reflect 2024 dues rates and fees. The domestic renewal notice which serves three mailings was completed. The International Membership renewal notice is being finalized.

Advertising

Reported by Janet Rocco, W1JLR

An ARRL [Ham Radio Holiday Gift Guide](#) was produced, containing ads from 10 participating companies. It is a new advertising product for 2023. The guide was emailed to members who have opted in to receive email offers, and a targeted group of lapsed members. The guide is featured on the website home page, and in e-newsletters in the month of December – including *The Current* and *ARRL Letter*.

ARRL Laboratory

Reported by George Spatta, W1GKS

The Lab welcomes John McAuliffe, KD2ZWN, as the new Digital RF Engineer. John comes to ARRL with a BSME and a wide range of programming experience. John's initial projects will include working with Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, on the design and deployment of AREDN systems, as well as improvements to and maintenance of the Node Red installation in the ARRL Radio Laboratory, W1HQ. John will be a crucial part of the Lab's development of test methods for digital amateur products such as SDRs.

Steve Anderson, W1EMI, continues to work on the large number of open interference cases as well as working with regional RFI teams to implement their local systems and methods. Steve recently attended the ANSC C63 meeting in Palo Alto and is also active with in the IEEE EMC Society and IEEE hams group, which is exploring ways to elevate amateur radio within IEEE.

George Spatta continues with *QST* Product Review testing and his role as secretary of the ARRL Clean

Signal Initiative alongside Northwestern Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO, and several industry experts and OEM representatives.

Emergency Management

Reported by Josh Johnston, KE5MHV

Josh Johnston traveled this week to the SAFECOM/NCSWIC meeting where he attended session discussions on Emergency Communications, National Standards for Public Service Communications and other topics including Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity. One of the highlights was discussion on the future of the Auxiliary Communicator Position and training that would integrate ARES training with the national AUXCOMM training program.

Jeremy Dunkley, KC1SIV, and Ken Bailey, K1FUG, are nearing completion of the ARES training updates.

Development

Reported by Kevin Beal, K8EAL

Ninety-one bricks were installed in the [Diamond Terrace](#) earlier this fall.

On November 28, ARRL participated in [Giving Tuesday](#), a day designated nationally for people to do good by volunteering or donating money. Giving Tuesday ended with 126 individual gifts and a total of \$17,469 raised for ARRL.

Appeals have been sent to ARRL's donor base for Education & Technology as well as Spectrum Defense.

The Development team has been busy entering and acknowledging the many donations that ARRL has received. Many people choose to make donations at the end of the calendar year for tax benefits and the team is ready to handle those donations.

ARRL Foundation

Reported by Christina Lessard, KC1TDM

The ARRL Foundation's 2024 scholarship cycle is open through January 10, 2024. The [ARRL Foundation Scholarship Program](#) supports eligible amateur radio operators pursuing higher education. The Foundation manages more than one hundred scholarships established by generous donors ranging from \$500 to \$25,000.

The Foundation received fifteen applications during its October grant cycle and will announce the grantees after the ARRL Foundation Board reviews the applications. The ARRL Foundation grants program awards limited funding to organizations for eligible amateur radio related projects and initiatives, particularly those with a focus on educating, licensing, and supporting amateur radio activities.

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) committed \$2.1 million to the ARRL Foundation to support scholarships for radio amateurs, radio technology for classroom teachers, and amateur radio

club grants. This is a three-year commitment. A joint ARRL Foundation / ARDC news release was published to [ARRL News](#).

Radiosport

Reported by Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

A group of staff organized an open house for local area hams and particularly new licensees to participate in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest on Saturday, December 9. A total of fifteen staff, volunteers, and visitors helped activate W1AW. Included were David Minster, NA2AA; Sierra Harrop, W5DX; Bart Jahnke, W9JJ; Steve Ewald, WV1X; Mimi Guerrat, KC1TJW, and ARRL HQ volunteers Skip Coulton, W1FTE, and Joe Polland, N1EAI, who served as official greeters and tour guides. Additional organizing support came from Bob Naumann, W5OV; Mike Walters, W8ZY, and Joe Garcia, NJ1Q.

VEC

Reported by Maria Somma, AB1FM

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Releases 2024-2028 Extra Class Question Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2024 – 2028 Extra-Class FCC Element 4 Question Pool and Syllabus to the public: The new [Extra-Class Question Pool](#) is effective from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028. The 2024 – 2028 pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and as a PDF. The ten graphics required for the new Extra-Class Question Pool are available within the documents or separately in PDF and JPG file formats.

Maria Somma, who is a member of the NCVEC QPC, noted, “The new pool incorporates significant changes compared to the 2020 - 2024 version. We carefully went over the pool for technical accuracy, relevancy to today’s amateur radio practices, syntax, grammar, style, format, and clarity and redundancy within and between the pools. With these goals in mind, eighty-two new questions were created, and 101 questions were eliminated, resulting in a reduction of the number of questions from 622 to 603. Over 350 questions were modified. We considered a question modified when the knowledge being tested was not changed but wording was improved, or answers or distractors were replaced”. Somma was tasked with document control for the group and worked 5 to 8 hours a week reviewing, correcting, and creating questions to modernize and improve the pool. Read the full story on [ARRL News](#).

License Renewal Information

Immediately after the \$35 FCC application fee became effective on April 19, 2022, the VEC department created step by step instructions to help ARRL members renew their license, create a new CORES account, and navigate the confusing FCC systems. On November 7, 2023, the FCC finally released their version of the renewal instructions which are located on the FCC website: [Personal Services Renewal Application Checklist](#)

Product Development

Reported by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R

A handful of staff met to advance a publication project, including Mark Derks, KC1RVQ; Shelly Bloom, WB1ENT; Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, and Bob Inderbitzen.

Bob met with the 2024 Hamvention Chair and other key Hamvention organizers to advance planning for the 2024 ARRL National Convention. Great Lake Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK, also attended.

Publications and Editorial Department

The assortment planning team met at the ARRL warehouse to review our publications assortment as we look ahead to future publishing projects. The team meets monthly: Becky Schoenfeld, David Minster, Mark Derks, Jackie Ferreira, Makenzie Ozycz, and Bob Inderbitzen.