



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

IN-NEWSLETTER

Covering August 12 – September 15, 2023

*Edited by Executive Assistant Sabrina Martin, and
Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R*

Upcoming Meetings and Events

[Red River Radio Amateurs Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Dakota Division Convention, West Fargo, North Dakota | September 23

[Collegiate QSO Party](#) | October 7 – 8

[ARRL Simulated Emergency Test \(SET\)](#) | October 7 – 8

2023 ARRL Online Auction | preview days October 10 – 12; auction is live October 13 – 19

[School Club Roundup](#) | October 16 – 20

[Pacificon](#), hosting the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Ramon, California | October 20 – 22

TI - 1 Introduction to Wireless Technology (ARRL [Teachers Institute](#)), Newington CT | October 23 – 27

[EME Contest - 50 to 1296 MHz](#) weekend 3 | October 28 – 29

[ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) – CW | November 4 – 6

Veterans Day Observed (HQ closed) | November 10

Thanksgiving Holiday (HQ closed) | November 23 – 24

Division election ballots counted and results certified | November 17

[Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo](#), hosting the ARRL Central Division Convention, Fort Wayne, Indiana | November 18 – 19

[ARRL November Sweepstakes](#) – Phone | November 18 – 20

[EME Contest - 50 to 1296 MHz](#) weekend 4 | November 25 – 26

[ARRL 160-Meter Contest](#) | December 1 – 3

[ARRL 10-Meter Contest](#) | December 9 – 10

[ARRL Rookie Roundup](#) – CW | December 17

Executive Office

David Minster, NA2AA, and Diane Middleton, W2DLM, have been working with departments to review 2024 planning and related budgets.

Marketing and Product Development **Reported by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R**

Joe Carcia, NJ1Q; Steve Goodgame, K5ATA; Bob Naumann, W5OV, and Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, completed another round of testing with a prototype dual-band beam antenna we are considering for resale. Feedback was shared with the manufacturer. The effort is intended to expand our offerings to help motivate Technician licensees to become active (or more active), but the antenna will have even broader appeal.

A book cover and ad were completed for the upcoming new ARRL title, *The Parks on the Air Book*.

On Wednesday, September 6, we emailed all Life members who currently receive *QST* or *On the Air* magazine by mail as a membership benefit, offering them a simple way to opt-in to continue receiving the printed versions. The personalized message included a unique URL for each Life member, taking them to a web form to make the designation. Life members who are not reachable by email will be sent a postal mailing.

We conducted Division-level emails to help promote Division Conventions for the New England and Pacific Divisions. The same was done for the Dakota Division Convention in early August.

Steve Goodgame and Bob Inderbitzen supported the second ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio meetup of the 2023/2024 school year via Zoom on September 12. Students shared short tours of their campus radio clubs. Among the colleges represented were Mississippi State, Purdue, Case Western Reserve, Missouri S&T, University of Michigan, Montana State University, St Louis University, University of Tulsa, Texas A&M, University of Florida, Irvine Valley College, University of Cincinnati, Scranton University, and Kansas State University.

Public Relations and Outreach

We worked hard to capture stories of readiness and response from ARES groups throughout a difficult news cycle dominated by the devastating wildfires in Hawaii and hurricanes impacting many states. Sierra Harrop, W5DX, and Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, had significant contact with SMs, SECs, PICs, PIOs, and other volunteers in the affected regions. Here are a handful of the ARRL News items prepared and published during this period:

- [Hurricane Lee: Radio Amateurs and Nets Activated](#) (9/15/2023)
- [Hurricane Idalia: ARRL Amateur Radio Volunteers Serve](#) (9/1/2023)
- [Hurricane Idalia: FCC Approves ARRL Petition to Aid Emergency Communications](#) (8/30/2023)

- [Devastating Hawaii Wildfires Prompt Response from Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (8/12/2023)

Alex Norstrom, KC1RMO, created new videos posted to ARRL's YouTube channel:

- [How to RENEW your FCC Amateur Radio License](#) (9/14/2023; over 4,000 views in 4 days!)
- [Technical Coordinators: A Tech Resource in Your Section](#) (8/17/2023)

Advertising

Reported by Janet Rocco, W1JLR

Advertising was committed for the new Parks on the Air book. All 12 allotted pages were sold.

Advertising is being solicited for the next edition of *The ARRL Repeater Directory*.

Education and Learning

Reported by Steve Goodgame, K5ATA

The Education and Learning Department is ramping up for the final Teachers Institute of 2023, which will be held in October. This will be the largest group of teachers ever hosted at HQ, with nineteen educators scheduled to attend.

Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, met with representatives of Girls Inc of New Hampshire to discuss ways to partner in elevating their STEM education programs and increase opportunities for the girls in their program.

Emergency Management

Reported by Josh Johnston, KE5MHV

August 24, 2023, Update

The Emergency Management Department has been actively following an active weather and wildfire pattern over the past week. Tropical storms have affected California and Texas while fires have been seen in several states including Washington where we received reports of hams assisting with equipment deployments.

The team is continuing to work on the content for the new Emergency Communications training.

September 7, 2023, Update

The department has had a busy couple of weeks with hurricane response and in-house activities. Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, attended the New England Division Convention, HamXposition, in Marlborough, Massachusetts where he presented on moving local ARES groups forward and being innovative in all areas of ARES. Josh Johnston has attended an ECFSC meeting and 2 subcommittee meetings over the past 2 weeks.

September 14, 2023, Update

The department has once again been in hurricane mode this week. We are following the progress of Hurricane Lee as it moves North into the Northeast part of the US and Southeast Canada. Along with our monitoring activities we have been in contact with ARES volunteers and National Weather Service officials in the affected areas.

Josh traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, along with Mike Walters, W8ZY, to participate in an ARES Summit to assist the Section leadership in regrowing the ARES Program in the state.

Josh traveled to Cape Coral Florida for a SAFECOM Education and Outreach committee meeting. This is the first time ARRL has attended any in-person SAFECOM meetings.

Membership

The annual luncheon to thank and recognize member-volunteers who support a variety of roles at Headquarters was held on September 14. 20+ HQ volunteers attended.

We organized and operated a successful presence for ARRL at the Huntsville Hamfest, held in Huntsville, Alabama, August 19 – 20. Our team included staff, Division, and Section leadership, and card checkers. We returned with 171 membership applications (166 in 2022). Dues and subscriptions collected at the convention exceeded \$13,000 (\$12,030 in 2022).

Similarly, we organized and operated an ARRL exhibit and related activities at the New England Division Convention, HamXposition, held in Marlborough, Massachusetts, August 26 – 27. President Rick Roderick and his wife Holly were among the ARRL representatives, and President Roderick gave the opening keynote address. We returned with 58 membership applications (83 in 2022); total receipts of \$5083.75 (\$6,207 in 2022 and \$4,459 in 2021).

Publications & Editorial **Reported by Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY**

The October 2023 issue of *QST* went to the printer on August 17.

The September/October 2023 issue of *On the Air* went to the printer on August 21.

The September/October 2023 issue of *NCJ* went to the printer on August 23.

The production cycle for the November/December 2023 issue of *NCJ* has begun.

Development **Reported by Kevin Beal, K8EAL**

In August, Development sent an email marketing message to our database of contacts, with ages 62-86,

for National Make-a-Will month. Unfortunately, more than two-thirds of Americans don't have plan, and hams aren't excluded from this. The message included an offer to download the newly launched ARRL Estate Planning Workbook (<https://www.arrl.org/estate-planning-workbook>) which can guide a ham through the steps to inventory and make arrangements for the disposition of their assets. All radio amateurs should know: your station is an asset.

We have begun shipping end of year premiums to larger donors including Periodicals DVDs and other benefits.

VEC

Reported by Maria Somma, AB1FM

From Monday August 14, 2023, to Monday morning August 21, 2023, the FCC Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system, used by all VEC organizations for filing exam sessions, individual applications, and club license applications, was unavailable for processing VEC files. Unfortunately, that meant applications for new and upgraded licenses, as well as individual and club license filings were not being accepted into their system for issuance.

ARRL VEC alerted FCC staff about the issue the morning of August 14. The EBF system was briefly available on Tuesday August 15, and because we monitor the system so closely, we were able to submit some files into the system before it went down again.

On Monday August 21, 2023, the FCC had reopened the EBF system, according to an email distributed to the VEC organizations. The ARRL VEC resumed submitting files to the FCC and all backlogged sessions and application files were successfully submitted to and processed by the FCC by Monday afternoon. The EBF system appears to be functioning normally again.

Field Services

Reported by Steve Ewald, WV1X

ARRL Headquarters staff is preparing to host the 2023 Section Manager Workshop on Saturday, September 16, at ARRL Headquarters. Seven (7) new ARRL Section Managers are traveling to Connecticut this weekend to take part in training sessions and discussions about managing their Sections and learning about ARRL programs. Thanks to all of the ARRL leaders and staff members who will be making presentations and are supporting this in-person event.

This fall season, there will be Section Manager elections conducted in Alaska and Delaware for new terms of office starting on January 1, 2024.