



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

IN-NEWSLETTER

May 6, 2022

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Covering four weeks, April 9 – May 6, 2022

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Events listed below are subject to change at any time; information will be updated as soon as it becomes available. See also the ARRL [Contest Calendar](#) and [Hamfest and Convention Database](#).

Dayton Hamvention, an ARRL-sanctioned hamfest, Xenia, Ohio | May 20-22, 2022

SEA-PAC, hosting the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention, Seaside, Oregon | June 3-5, 2022

[International Digital Contest](#) | June 4-5, 2022

[ARRL June VHF Contest](#) | June 11-13, 2022

[Kids Day](#) | June 18, 2022

HAM RADIO International Amateur Radio Exhibition, Friedrichshafen, Germany | June 24-26, 2022

[ARRL Field Day](#) | June 25-26, 2022

Teachers Institute – TI-1, Newington, Connecticut | June 27 - July 1, 2022

[IARU HF World Championship](#) | July 9-10, 2022

Teachers Institute – TI-2, Newington, Connecticut | July 11 - July 15, 2022

Standing Committee Meetings: A&F, EM&FS, P&S | July 14, 2022

ARRL Board of Directors Meeting | July 15-16

Teachers Institute – TI-1, Dayton, Ohio | July 18 - July 22, 2022

Teachers Institute – TI-1, Newington, Connecticut | July 25 - July 29, 2022

Executive Office

Staff members throughout HQ are preparing for ARRL's exhibits and activities at 2022 Dayton Hamvention, May 20 - 22. A summary of ARRL exhibits, forums, and our related participation is available at www.arrl.org/expo.

On Friday, April 22, Diane Middleton, W2DLM, led two sessions to discuss the recently completed salary and benefit survey report and to answer questions from staff.

VEC

Reported by Maria Somma, AB1FM

FCC Application Fee Effective - FCC Not Processing License Applications and Exam Session Files

The FCC \$35 amateur radio application fee became effective on Tuesday April 19, 2022. Some VEC staff worked over the preceding weekend and late Monday night, April 18, to ensure all sessions and applications received in the office were transmitted to the FCC before Tuesday. We have received many compliments from VEs and candidates who appreciated our efforts to get as many applications filed to the FCC and granted before the fee took effect.

By midday Tuesday, April 19, the day the FCC fee took effect, it was clear that the FCC was not processing any license applications and exam session files. On Wednesday, April 20, in a notice to all VECs, the FCC asked them to refrain from submitting any session or application files while they work to resolve the issue.

On Friday, April 22, the FCC reported that the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system is back online and functioning normally. VECs may resume transmitting sessions and applications. They stated that the backlog of files will be processed through the filing system and that the problem was resolved.

However, this was not the case, as no new amateur radio call signs or licenses have been issued since Monday, April 18, 2022, which is the day before the application fee took effect.

On Wednesday, April 27, in a second notice to all VECs, the FCC again asked them to refrain from submitting any amateur radio exam session or license application files while the Commission works to resolve an issue with the ULS application filing system. Some license renewal, license changes, and upgrade applications were processed through the system before the FCC notice was released to the VECs.

Maria Somma, AB1FM, reported in multiple news items (<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-not-processing-new-license-applications>) that new call signs are not being assigned by the FCC even if the applicant has paid the FCC application fee. The FCC was processing upgrade applications through the system without an issue because there are no fees required for those applications. In addition to new call signs not being issued even if the applicant has paid the FCC fee, some applicants are also having issues paying and logging into the system.

Other types of license application transactions may also be experiencing problems. Applicants should expect delays with license, call sign, and application processing associated with individuals and amateur radio clubs.

Amateur radio license filings are currently on hold until further notice and the FCC did not estimate how long the system would be down.

VEC staff has received accolades from customers for consistently providing timely and clear communications to the community about the FCC's missteps with the new fee implementation and the latest status with FCC application filings.

The VEC will provide an update when the FCC communicates that the filing system is back online.

ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program

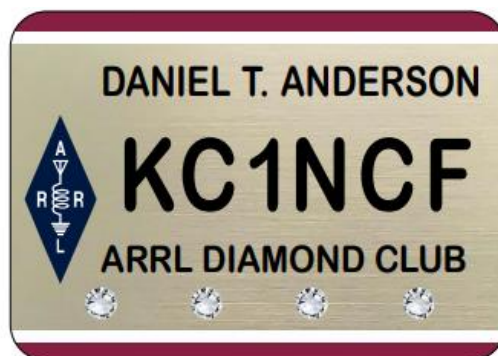
The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program took effect on April 19, 2022. The program covers the one-time \$35 application fee for new amateur radio license candidates younger than 18 years old for tests administered under the ARRL VEC program. The \$35 FCC application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates younger than 18 years old would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC team at the time of the exam. The ARRL Board approved the Youth Licensing Grant Program at its July 2021 meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, expanding on the scope of the original motion proposed by Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB. Maria Somma, AB1FM, created and implemented the program guidelines, procedures, and form. Visit the [youth licensing grant program](#) webpage for the program instructions and reimbursement form.

Development

Reported by Melissa Stemmer, KA7CLO

We are pleased to welcome Edward Hogan, KDØBDO, of the Midwest Division and Walter Huebner, KE1LV, of the New England Division as the 336th and 337th members of the Maxim Society.

Development is excited to be rolling out a new Diamond Club longevity badge featuring one diamond for every five years of membership in the Diamond Club. These badges will be offered in phases, starting with our Diamond Club members of 20 or more years. The first set of these special badges will be on display at Hamvention in May. Response to this new offering has been very positive with Diamond Club members as excited to receive the badges as we are to offer them!



Field Services

Leona Adams reports that ARRL Headquarters has recently received a Section Manager nominating petition from the U.S. Virgin Islands Section Manager Fred Kleber, K9VV. Nominating petitions for this election cycle are due at Headquarters by June 10 and the new terms of office in this cycle begin October 1. Section Manager election ballots from Delaware and Indiana continue to arrive in the postal mail. Ballots are due at Headquarters no later than May 20.

Mike Walters hosted the monthly virtual Section Manager meeting on April 19, and the April edition of

Club News has been distributed. Steve Ewald completed editorial work on his columns for June *QST*, and is preparing for the July issue.

The ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program has launched:

- The program is supported by a new web page at www.arrl.org/club-grant-program and a new email address, clubgrants@arrl.org for information. The grant application is live at <https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/arrlgrantapplication>.
- Mike Walters, W8ZY, appeared on the program Ham Nation on Wednesday evening, April 27, to promote the launch of the ARRL Foundation Club Grant Program.
- An informational webinar about the Club Grant Program was held on Wednesday night, May 4. The webinar was moderated by Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and include co-presenters Mike Walters, W8ZY, and New England Division Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC. Together, they provided hundreds of attendees with an orientation of the program and information on how to apply.
- Two videos introducing the Club Grant Program are now available. A [recording](#) introducing the program, from the May 4 webinar, is available on ARRL's YouTube channel. A second video, presented by Jason Johnston, KC5HWB, provides a step-by-step overview of online ARRL Foundation Club Application Process. Johnston's [video](#), published on May 5, can be viewed on his YouTube channel, Ham Radio 2.0.

Education and Learning

Reported by Steve Goodgame, K5ATA

Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, spent a day at the Mississippi School for the Blind. Students and teachers showed Steve how they are taught and how they take in knowledge using a variety of tools. The information and relationship support ARRL's ongoing commitment to increase accessibility of our content and services for the blind and visually impaired. Additionally, the MS School for the Blind has committed to starting an amateur radio club on their campus and getting a station on the air.



ARRL Lab

Reported by Ed Hare, W1RFI

Ed Hare, W1RFI, and Steve Anderson, W1EMI, met by webinar with two representatives from the ECRI (Emergency Care Research Institute) to talk about the immunity of medical devices. The meeting broadly explored the possible common ground of concerns about the need for medical equipment to have sufficient immunity that it can function in the presence of nearby amateur stations.

Ed and Steve also participated in a regular monthly meeting of the AM Improvement Working Group, a group of broadcast engineers working on projects intended to improve reception in the AM broadcast band. ARRL staff are active members of the group, providing information about the measurement of noisy devices and about the generally increasing levels of human-made noise on MF and HF. Ed provided Steve with training on the use of the Lab's conducted-emissions test fixture. Steve is prioritizing the testing of various noisy devices that Lab has accumulated over the years. If recently purchased devices that are still being marketed test above the FCC limits, the Lab is going to propose that ARRL file formal complaints with the FCC, to get the designs corrected by the (overseas) manufacturers involve and/or to get the devices removed from the shelves and no longer marketed.

ARRL receives the occasional report of interference from household LED lighting. A case received this week reported S9+20 dB interference from the neighbor of a ham that recently installed 25 recessed LED lighting fixtures. What make this case particularly interesting is that the amateur reports that the noise is not being generated by all of them, but only about 20% of the installed devices. This warrants a bit of investigation, because it may help us understand why some devices make noise and others do not.

Ed completed the Product Review testing of a dual-band FM mobile transceiver. The results have been shared with the manufacturer.

The Lab is busy preparing for Hamvention. The Lab will again perform testing of HT radios there. Ed is putting the Lab's small Tektronix spectrum analyzer into a fixture board so it can be shipped and set up easily. It is run by a laptop connected to a rented large TV monitor, so the Lab booth should get a bit of attention.

The Lab is still looking to fill the position of Assistant Lab Manager. The successful candidate will have a good management track records and individual expertise in either product testing or amateur digital communications.

The Lab reports that last week, it handled 26 TIS phone calls, 32 emails and received 2 feedback reports on the *QST* archive search data on the *QST* web page. Zak Lau, W1VT, updated 6 of the Technology pages on the ARRL web site. A Lab staff meeting is being planned to happen right after Hamvention to fully review the Technology pages and plan new pages, updates, or deletions.

W1AW

Reported by Joe Carcia, NJ1Q

Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, and Bill Spring replaced the rollers on two of the three sliding doors located in front of the transmitting racks. They also installed rail guards in the roller tracks. After a few adjustments, they got all three doors – rollers were replaced on one door earlier – the doors slide with ease.

On Wednesday, April 20, Matt Strelow, KC1XX, and Andrew Toth – both of XX Towers, Inc. – were on hand to perform the spring W1AW/W1HQ antenna/tower inspections. Aside from replacing the pulley rope on the Rohn 65 (120' tower) no issues were found at W1AW.

For W1HQ, the old Rohn 25 tower, located at the back of the penthouse, was removed. The lowest section is still attached -- cemented into the roof. This work was done in preparation for an eventual tower replacement (Rohn 55).

Joe updated the web code practice files and their archives. He also processed one (1) Code Proficiency certificate and two (2) endorsements. Joe installed all the new(er) pieces for the 2-meter broadcast equipment. A commercial-grade amplifier modified for 2-meters was donated by Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. Initial tests have W1AW now running approximately 160 watts. Joe is also in the process of reigniting the ARRL AREDN project.

Scott Gee, WB9RRU, worked on fast and slow code practice files for the week. He also processed three (3) paper and eleven (11) electronic VUCC applications for a total of 521 credits.

Joe and Scott have agreed to help post the weekly Solar Update bulletin to the ARRL website news crawl on Fridays. The bulletin is submitted to us weekly by Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, and is a popular feature followed by members and the wider ham radio community around the world. The weekly task had previously been supported by Rick Lindquist, who retired as ARRL News Editor in March. Joe and Scott already publish Tad's report as a W1AW Propagation Bulletin each week.

Membership, Marketing & Communications

Alex Norstrom completed production of the ARRL Events app for 2022 Dayton Hamvention. The app, which was first introduced by ARRL in 2019, is offered in a collaborative effort between ARRL and Hamvention. The free ARRL Events app is now available and already includes Hamvention's full program, so attendees can browse and schedule forums, find affiliated events, and preview the extensive list of exhibitors. During the event, attendees can use other app features to follow the hourly prize drawings populated by the Dayton Hamvention Prize Committee, and browse building and site maps. See the ARRL News [story](#) and our Hamvention event summary at www.arrl.org/expo.

Product Development, Public Relations, and Outreach **Reported by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R**

In April, we welcomed John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, of Columbus, Ohio as our new ARRL News Editor. John follows the retirement of Rick Lindquist from the role in March. John has been training with Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, and members of the editorial team. He has already produced the last 5 editions of the ARRL Letter, and last 4 editions of ARRL Audio News. John will also produce news content for ARRL's website, and the "Happenings" and "Amateur Radio World" columns in *QST*. An Extra class licensee, for the past 10 years, John has served as the Public Information Coordinator for the ARRL Ohio Section. His background includes journalist and broadcast engineer. Submissions for the ARRL Letter and ARRL News can be sent to John via news@arrl.org.

Radiosport
Reported by Sharon Taratula

Week ending April 20

<i>Processing Time</i>	<i>Most Recent Week</i>	<i>Difference Over Previous 2 Week Period</i>
Paper/Fieldcheck Processing Time	2 Weeks	0
Logbook Processing Time	2 Business Days	-1
<i>YTD Applications</i>		
2022 DXCC Applications	3617	+559
2022 WAS Applications	1103	+138
2022 VUCC Applications	345	+51
2022 WAC Applications	37	+8
2022 WPX Applications	251	+70
2022 WAZ Applications	168	+13

Week ending April 27

<i>Processing Time</i>	<i>Most Recent Week</i>	<i>Difference Over Previous Period</i>
Paper/Fieldcheck Processing Time	2 Weeks	0
Logbook Processing Time	2 Business Days	0
<i>YTD Applications</i>		
2022 DXCC Applications	3902	+285
2022 WAS Applications	1179	+76
2022 VUCC Applications	359	+14
2022 WAC Applications	37	0
2022 WPX Applications	270	+19
2022 WAZ Applications	203	+35

Week ending May 4

<i>Processing Time</i>	<i>Most Recent Week</i>	<i>Difference Over Previous Period</i>
Paper/Fieldcheck Processing Time	2 Weeks	0
Logbook Processing Time	2 Business Days	0
<i>YTD Applications</i>		
2022 DXCC Applications	4172	+270
2022 WAS Applications	1236	+57
2022 VUCC Applications	376	+17
2022 WAC Applications	37	0
2022 WPX Applications	286	+16
2022 WAZ Applications	264	+61

Edited by Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, Director of Public Relations and Innovation