



The *GLD* *Newsletter*

February 2024

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Scott's Stuff



Happy Groundhog Day to you all!!!!!!

Hi Gang,

What a month January turned out to be! I was reminded on the news the other day that 46 years ago we had the Blizzard of '78. Boy did that bring back some wild memories. I had gone to work early since it was snowing but when I got there, I was one of only a handful of people that showed up! By 8am the 10 of us that made it to work were told to go home. Now, I have to tell you that the Westinghouse plant that I worked at was all downhill for me going to work, but coming home, well you can just imagine! I had a 70 Ford LTD that was an ocean liner compared to the cars today. It took me over 4 hours to get home, and my home was only 3 miles away.



Now that's just the start of this adventure. Naturally the storm just got worse as the day went on and we had a brand-new baby in the house, so of course, we were out of diapers and milk with no hope of even thinking about driving to the store to get them. We did, however, have a Lawsons Convenience Store just at the top of our street. Boy, don't we all wish we would still have those little neighborhood stores?

By now the snow was a couple of feet deep with ice as the bottom layer, so the only way of going anywhere was on foot. So, I hooked up an old sled that we had to our dog that was an Elkhound/German Shepard mix who just couldn't get enough of this snow and off we went to Lawsons. I kept my fingers crossed the entire time that I wouldn't slip in the snow and get buried to a point where I wouldn't be found or even worse, the store would be closed with no hope of getting the supplies we needed. But I can say it was a great adventure for sure, the dog pulled me and the sled right through all the snow, Lawsons was open, and I got the supplies and got back home safe and sound. *Betcha' you didn't figure that I would have a happy ending, did ya'...*

Little did any of us know in the Mansfield area that just north of the Mansfield Airport we had a trucker run off the road and got buried in the snow for 7 days before he was discovered. Yes, he did survive, and like me, has a story to tell that he'll never forget. Anyway, I bet all of you have some really good stories to tell as well about those days!

Now, I'm sure that many of you are still wondering what happened at the Board meeting. I can tell you that it was a really collaborative 4 days with all of the Board members. A lot of really good things got done and I'm sure that you have all seen the "Members Bulletin" that went out right after the meeting from the CEO. Yes, we as the Board have heard you loud and clear. Getting the information out to you right after the meeting was the first step and I feel confident that this practice will continue for many years to come.

I have posted a video that was produced by the Director of the New England Division on the Great Lakes Division website that goes into a lot of detail on the motions that were brought to the floor. This video is a little over 1 hour long and goes into some really good detail on the actions that were taken at the board meeting. I would encourage you to take a look at that video, here's a link...

[Q&A - January Board Meeting](#)

I also know that many of you are anxious to learn about the results of the Questionnaire that I had last month.

The following are the results...

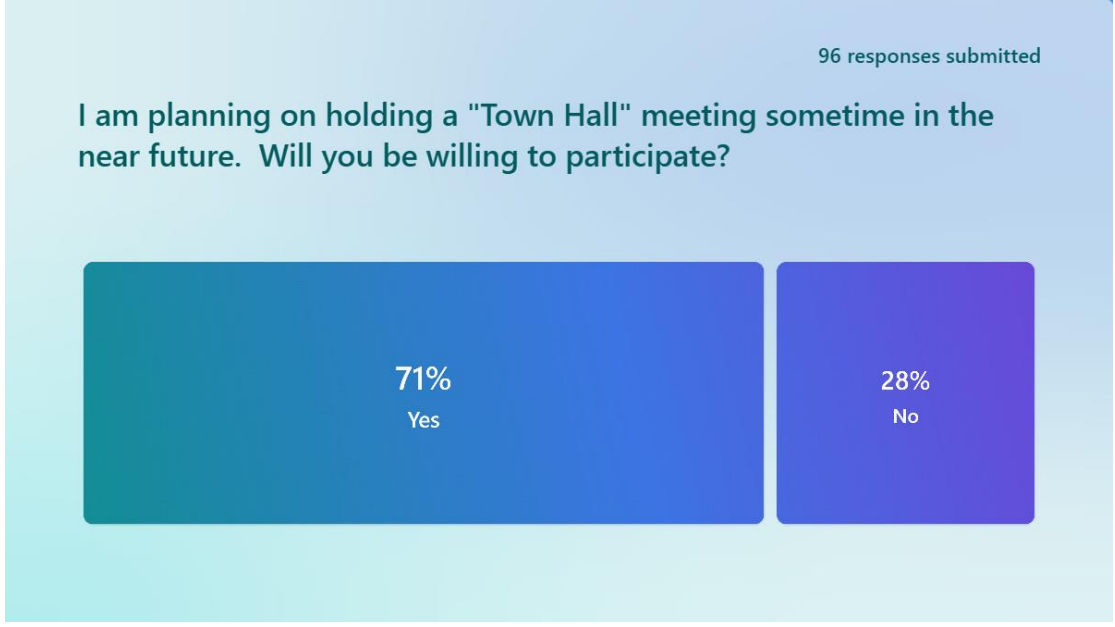
Ok, monthly it is...



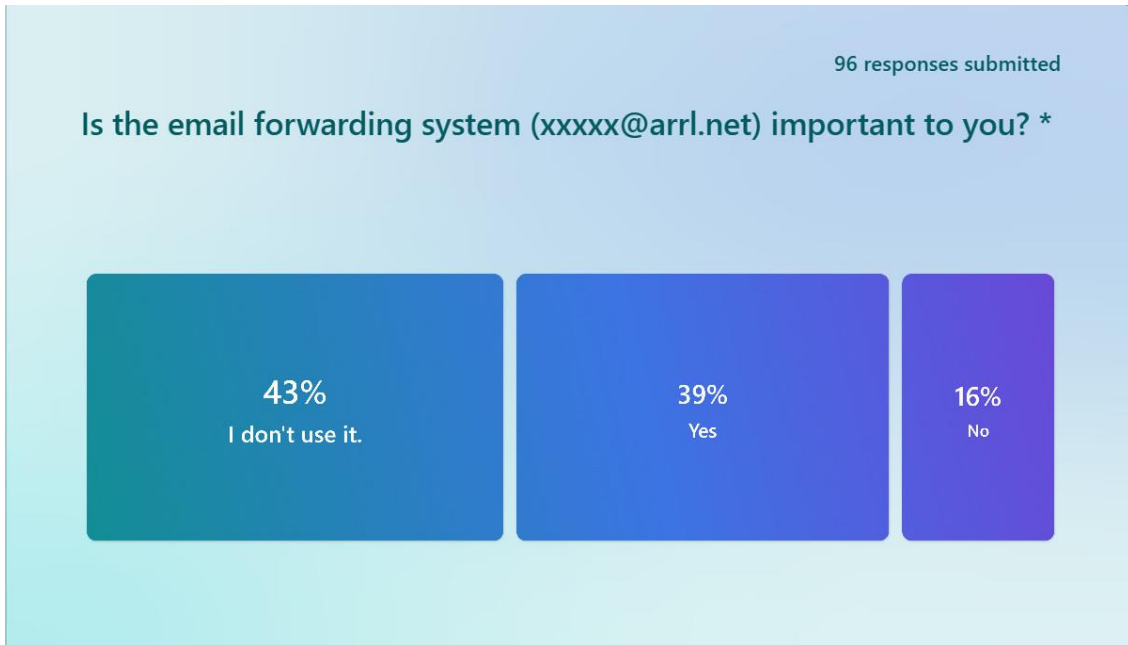
**Ok, I guess we're hitting the mark on this one.
But, if there is something that you want to see, please don't hesitate to ask.
Many times, it's easy to do.**



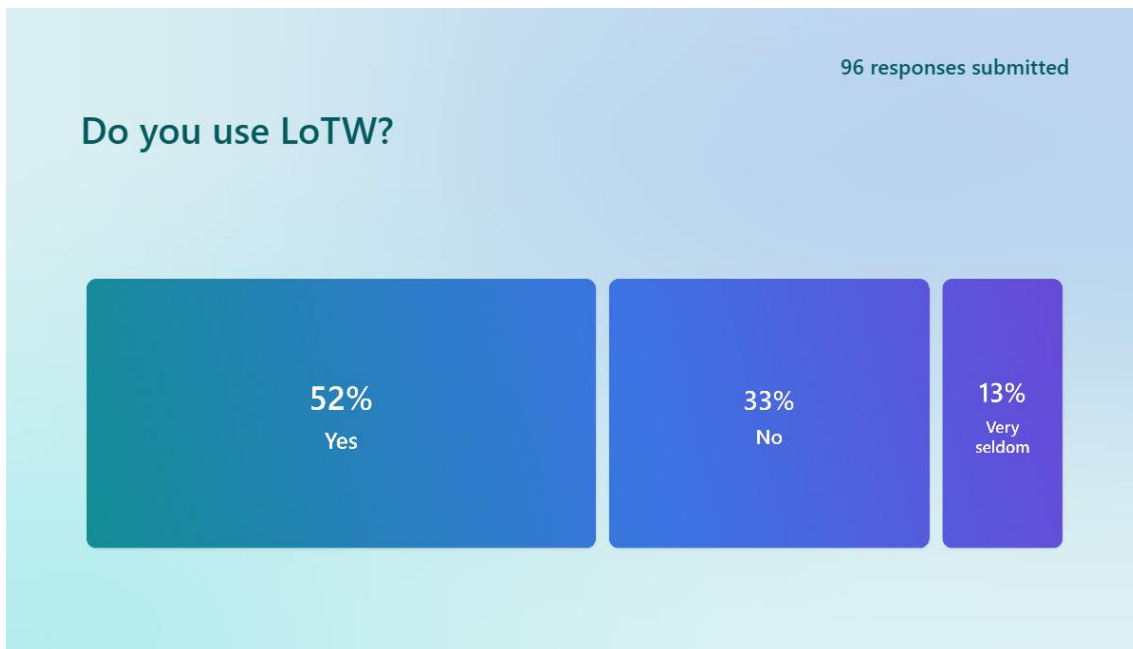
I will get something in the works on this.



I will say that the results of this question really surprised me. I thought that way more folks used the @arrl.net and would feel that it was important to you.



This is another one of the services of the ARRL that I was surprised about. I would have thought the number of users would be a lot higher than this.



I have another questionnaire ready for you to respond to. Here is a link to it

Quick Questionnaire

You can also get to this Questionnaire from the main page of the Great Lakes Division website. I want to hear from everyone, so please, take the few minutes that it takes to complete and let me know how you feel about things.

Now, for those of you who are planning on attending the Lavonia Hamfest coming up in February, come look me up. I'll be with your Section Manager, Larry, WB8R at the ARRL table.

Welp, that's going to do it from me. I hope that you have a great Groundhog Day, Groundhog Day, Groundhog Day.....

73,

Scott Yonally, N8SY
Director
Great Lakes Division
n8sy@arrl.org

From Roy, W8REH

Real Hams Don't Read or Do they?



If you recognize that the inspiration for this article title came from an early 1980's bestselling book titled "Real Men Don't Eat Quiche", then maybe you are on your way to proving this theory wrong. On the other hand, there is evidence to support the hypothesis that hams don't read, and they are proud of it. I was recently directed to a manufacturer in the box instructions as how pervasive this may be and how this manufacturer is dealing with it.

JUMPSTART, OR "REAL HAMS DON'T READ MANUALS!"

Ok, but at least read this one section before operating.

Maybe it's more that hams don't read what we want them to. So, then the question we need to answer is, HOW can we communicate to an unreceptive audience? Has the tradition of using the "newsletter" lost its effectiveness? I have had the privilege of knowing some of the Division's best ham club newsletter editors, not just that they were good, but have awards to substantiate it. When asked why I didn't see any club newsletter anymore, they all answered the same that they had given up. No one reads them anymore.

We know hams are not inherently illiterate. Given a technical problem, they'll dig into written documents, manuals, high tech studies with the best of them.

I conclude it must not be just the ability to read the written word. It must be something to do with the "got to want to theory". At first, I concluded that it might have something to do with the 14th century Gutenberg method, yes, the printed word. But E-books, Email, and the internet don't seem to change the outcome. How do we instill the desire to communicate accurately and effectively in ways the ham community wants to participate?

Social Media seems to be attractive in many circles where it clearly attracts similar opinions and like minds but can negatively impact holistic discussions and goals by promoting only personal passions, obscuring facts, and truly objective ideas.

I often hear a comparison of our hobby to many other large organizations having similar struggles. We have a huge advantage in that our hobby has a massive variety of aspects driven by some of the most intelligent and passionate people in the world. That advantage can also be a struggle where it is human nature to feel that one's individual passion is the most important. We must not let this welcomed intensity drown out others, especially those with new passions foreign to many of us left to steward the hobby. I do have a vision: "Harness the passion of Amateur Radio for all generations".

So, the question at hand, HOW do we develop the desire and methods to communicate within the whole Amateur Radio community? Might it reside in our clubs?

I believe deeply that the ARRL is the only viable tool we have to navigate the constant political, social, technological, and environmental changes we are constantly being dealt. We just need to learn how best to communicate effectively. The League does a tremendous number of good things, but not everyone seems to care or know about them.

I often find Einstein's thought-provoking insights just what I need, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them".

73,

Roy Hook, W8REH
Vice Director
Great Lakes Division
w8reh@arrl.org

2024 Division Hamfests

Here in the Great Lakes Division, we have over 50 hamfests a year, including the largest one in the country, Hamvention. This year Hamvention will also be the ARRL's National Convention as well, which means that there will be some very special things happening there. So, if you haven't started planning your hamfest schedule yet, you really need to start now.



<p>02/10/2024 - Cherryland ARC 50th Anniversary Swap-N-Shop Location: Traverse City, MI Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Cherryland Amateur Radio Club Website: http://cherrylandarc.com/?page_id=56 Learn More</p>	<p>02/17/2024 - Livonia Amateur Radio Club Annual Swap & Shop Location: Livonia , MI Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club Website: http://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop Learn More</p>
<p>03/02/2024 - Cave City Hamfest Location: Cave City , KY Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Mammoth Cave ARC Website: http://www.ky4x.org Learn More</p>	<p>03/09/2024 - Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap Location: Kalamazoo Twp, MI Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: SMARS Website: http://www.w8df.com/hamfest Learn More</p>
<p>03/10/2024 - WINTERHAMFEST Location: Elyria, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society Website: http://winterhamfest@noars.net Learn More</p>	<p>03/17/2024 - Toledo Mobile Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Fair Location: Perrysburg, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association Website: http://www.w8hhf.org Learn More</p>
<p>04/13/2024 - Bellevue ARC Spring Cleanup Location: Bellevue, NE Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Bellevue Amateur Radio Club Website: http://www.bellevuearc.org/ Learn More</p>	<p>04/13/2024 - Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club 68th Hamfest Location: Cuyahoga Falls, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Website: http://www.w8vpv.org/hamfest Learn More</p>
<p>04/13/2024 - Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club Location: Bidwell, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Mid-Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club Learn More</p>	<p>04/28/2024 - Athens Hamfest Location: Athens, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Athens County Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.ac-ara.org/ Learn More</p>

<p>05/04/2024 - Wexaukee ARC Swap and Shop Location: Cadillac, MI Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Wexaukee ARC Website: http://wexaukeearc.org Learn More</p>	<p>05/05/2024 - Lucas County ARES Trunk Sale & Swap Meet Location: Toledo, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Lucas County ARES Website: http://lucasares.org Learn More</p>
<p>05/11/2024 - 05/16/2024 RV Radio Network Location: Millersburg, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Rv Radio Network Learn More</p>	<p>05/16/2024 - 05/19/2024 Four Days In May Location: Fairborn, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: QRP Amateur Radio Club International Website: http://qrparci.org/fdim Learn More</p>
<p>05/17/2024 - 05/19/2024 Dayton Hamvention, ARRL National Convention Location: Xenia, OH Type: ARRL Convention Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association Website: https://hamvention.org Learn More</p>	<p>06/01/2024 - IRA Hudsonville Hamfest Location: Hudsonville, MI Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association Website: http://www.w8ira.org Learn More</p>
<p>07/06/2024 - Mansfield Mid Summer Trunkfest Location: Mansfield, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Intercity Amateur Radio Club Website: http://W8WE.ORG Learn More</p>	<p>07/21/2024 - Van Wert Hamfest Location: Van Wert, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club Website: http://w8fy.org Learn More</p>
<p>08/10/2024 - Cincinnati Hamfest Location: Owensville, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Milford ARC Website: https://CincinnatiHamfest.org Learn More</p>	<p>08/18/2024 - Warren Hamfest Location: Cortland, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Warren Amateur Radio Association Website: https://www.w8vtd.com/ Learn More</p>
<p>09/07/2024 - Greater Louisville Hamfest 2024 Location: Shepherdsville, KY Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Greater Louisville Hamfest Association Website: http://LouisvilleHamfest.com Learn More</p>	<p>09/28/2024 - Top of Michigan Amateur Radio Club & Thunder Bay Amateur Radio Club Hamfest Location: Gaylord, MI Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Top of Michigan ARC Gaylord and Thunder Bay ARC Alpena Website: http://www.nm8rc.org Learn More</p>
<p>10/27/2024 - 2024 MARC Hamfest at MAPS Location: N. Canton, OH Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club Website: https://www.w8np.net Learn More</p>	

You can always find the latest updates for upcoming hamfests on the Great Lakes Division website.

Just click

[Great Lakes Division Hamfests](#)

to get to the latest hamfest updates and information.

Is your club website listed

[Club Links](#)

on the Great Lakes Division website?



National News

ARRL is New Publisher of Gordon West, WB6NOA

The ARRL has become the new publisher of the Amateur Radio License Preparation books and related resources authored by Gordon West, WB6NOA. Gordon West's popular books, classes, and audio courses have been a mainstay of amateur radio licensing for over 40 years. Generations of hams have learned from 'Gordo', and now the impact of his knowledge and experience will continue with the reach and resources of ARRL.

Current editions of Gordon West's popular license prep books will be available from ARRL and ARRL publication dealers soon, including:

- *Technician Class FCC Element 2 Amateur Radio License Preparation*, 10th Edition 2022-2026
- *General Class FCC Element 3 Amateur Radio License Preparation*, 11th Edition 2023-2027
- *Extra Class FCC Element 4 Amateur Radio License Preparation*, 8th Edition 2020-2024

The books, including future editions, will continue to be authored by Gordon West with Technical Editor Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ. Nichols is a regular contributor to ARRL publications and has written several ARRL books. He has collaborated on the Gordon West books since 2013.

Gordon West Named ARRL National Instructor

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, has also announced that Gordon West has been named ARRL National Instructor. Goodgame leads ARRL programs that benefit amateur radio volunteer instructors and professional educators. "Gordon West will serve as the ambassador for the new ARRL National Instructor Program," said Goodgame. "The program will place greater emphasis on connecting prospective hams with opportunities to find ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs and classes. The National Instructor Program will also support ARRL volunteer instructors with new resources for teaching amateur radio courses and for developing licensees."

About Gordon West, WB6NOA

Gordon West has been an amateur radio operator for more than 60 years, holding the top-level license of Amateur Extra, call sign WB6NOA. He also holds an FCC Commercial Operator License, the First Class General Radiotelephone Certificate with Radar Endorsement. A frequent guest and presenter at ham radio conventions, West is well-known by the amateur radio community for his unique educational style and commitment to developing instructors. His work has benefited thousands of new amateur radio licensees. He is an ARRL Life Member, and has earned many recognitions including ARRL Instructor of the Year and Dayton Amateur Radio Association 2006 Amateur of the Year. The Gordon West Ambassador of the Year Award is presented annually by Orlando HamCation® to an amateur who has made outstanding contributions to the amateur radio community.



February 1

- [CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)
- [NRAU 10m Activity Contest](#)
- [SKCC Sprint Europe](#)

February 2

- [NCCC FT4 Sprint](#)
- [Weekly RTTY Test](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [NCCC Sprint Ladder](#)
- [K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)

February 3

- [Vermont QSO Party](#)
- [10-10 International Winter Contest, SSB](#)
- [Mexico RTTY International Contest](#)
- [F9AA Cup, CW](#)
- [European Union DX Contest](#)
- [Minnesota QSO Party](#)
- [FYBO Winter QRP Sprint](#)
- [AGCW Straight Key Party](#)
- [British Columbia QSO Party](#)

February 4

- [North American Sprint, CW](#)

February 5

- [K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)
- [ICWC Medium Speed Test](#)
- [OK1WC Memorial \(MWC\)](#)
- [RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB](#)

February 6

- [Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
- [ARS Spartan Sprint](#)
- [ICWC Medium Speed Test](#)

February 7

- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [Phone Weekly Test](#)
- [A1Club AWT](#)
- [CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)
- [VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest](#)
- [Mini-Test 40](#)
- [Mini-Test 80](#)
- [CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)
- [UKEICC 80m Contest](#)
- [AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest](#)

February 8

- [Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest](#)
- [CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)

February 9

- [NCCC FT4 Sprint](#)
- [Weekly RTTY Test](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [NCCC Sprint Ladder](#)
- [K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)

February 10

- [CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest](#)
- [FISTS Saturday Sprint](#)
- [Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW](#)
- [SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#)
- [KCJ Topband Contest](#)
- [Dutch PACC Contest](#)
- [OMISS QSO Party](#)
- [RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest](#)

February 11

- [Balkan HF Contest](#)

February 12

- [K1USN Slow Speed Test](#)
- [4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint](#)
- [ARRL School Club Roundup](#)
- [ICWC Medium Speed Test](#)
- [OK1WC Memorial \(MWC\)](#)

February 13

- [Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#)
- [ICWC Medium Speed Test](#)

February 14

- [PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint](#)
- [NAQCC CW Sprint](#)
- [QRP Fox Hunt](#)
- [Phone Weekly Test](#)
- [A1Club AWT](#)
- [CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)
- [VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest](#)
- [Mini-Test 40](#)
- [Mini-Test 80](#)
- [CWops Test \(CWT\)](#)
- [DARC FT4 Contest](#)
- [RSGB 80m Club Championship. Data](#)

News, Press Releases and Special Interest

N3FJP Software Updates

The N3FJP team has been busy releasing several updates and one addition to their popular contest logging software programs.

VHF Contest Log 6.6.8 has been updated to support the Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP). While the SEQP includes HF, the existing grid square exchange in the VHF software was the best fit for SEQP's inclusion. Select Solar Eclipse QSO Party in the settings menu.

RAC Contest Log 3.6.6 has been updated to support VE3RHQ point assignment.

Additionally, South Carolina QSO Party Contest Log 2.7.6 has been updated to support the 2024 rules changes, and Delaware QSO Party Contest Log 1.0.1 has been released to support the Delaware QSO Party.

For more information about N3FJP Amateur Radio Software, visit <https://www.n3fjp.com/>.

Club Commission Program

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL member renewals. The commission structure has been updated and the process has changed to make it more lucrative and easier for the clubs. All membership dues are sent to ARRL to be processed and the club receives a commission payment directly from ARRL. No more complicated adjusting funds around credit cards, checks and cash. ARRL does all the processing. As a result, your club could earn money while promoting the many benefits and programs of ARRL to ensure that amateur radio is protected and continues to be strong.

FAQ New ARRL Affiliated Club Commission Program

Q. What is the ARRL Affiliated Club Commission Program?

A. The ARRL Affiliated Club Commission Program allows ARRL Affiliated Clubs to earn a commission on new and renewing regular memberships.

Q. How much commission does the club earn for new and renewing members?

A. Each new ARRL member earns the club a \$20.00 commission. New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal now earns the club a \$5.00 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program.

Q. What is the process for the club?

A. The club will follow the process for both new and renewal applications

1. Each new or renewing ARRL member should [fill out the membership application for Affiliated Clubs](#).
2. Payment in **FULL** can be made to ARRL by check, credit card, or cash.
3. The club then sends all applications with **FULL** payment along with the Club Commission Reconciliation Form to ARRL for processing.
4. The memberships are processed once received by ARRL, and the club receives the commission.
5. Commission payments can be made by check to the club or Direct Deposit.

Q. Can the club keep the commission from the applications before sending them to ARRL?

A. No, the applications must have full payment, and the commission is then paid to the club.

Q. Can the member combine the Club Commission with a premium or incentive offered separately by ARRL or at a Hamfest?

A. No, the member will not be eligible to receive a gift or incentive if the club collects a commission on the membership.

Q. Which memberships are eligible for a commission?

A. Only regular memberships. Multiyear memberships earn only one commission. Life, Family, International, Blind, and Student memberships are not eligible for a commission.

Q. How quickly should the club expect to get a commission check?

A. A club should receive a payment within two to three weeks of ARRL receiving the forms.

Q. If we have a question on how to process the forms, who do we contact?

A. Questions can be directed to clubs@arrl.org or contact Member Services at ARRL.

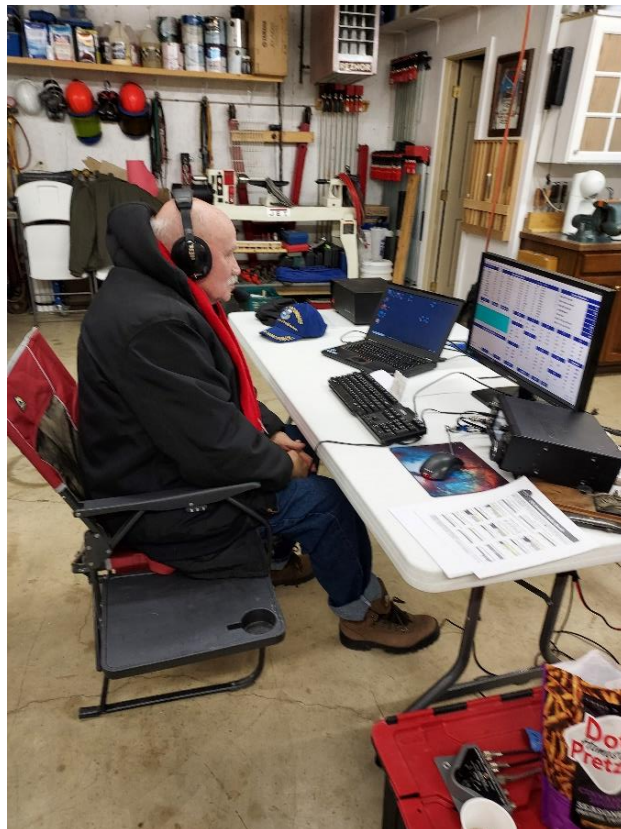
This is a really great opportunity for your club to receive “FREE” money with very little effort, and it helps the ARRL as well.

Follow this link for the [Club Commission Reconciliation Form](#).

Follow this link for the [membership application for Affiliated Clubs](#)

Winter Field Day Pictures..





These are just a few photos that were captured from various Winter Field Day sites.

I'm always looking for more, so if you have pictures, please send them to me. You never know, they may show up in a newsletter, website or even on the Division's banner.

Send them to: n8sy@n8sy.com