



Radio Waves

*The Great Lakes Division
Mid-Month Report
October*



From the Michigan Section Manager

Larry Camp, WB8R

Michigan Section News
October 2025

Greetings from the southernmost part of Michigan!
The weather is changing, and the leaves are turning from green to beautiful reds and yellows. The daylight comes to us later and leaves us earlier and the temps are considerably cooler both day and night with the first light frost happened a few days ago here in extreme southern Michigan. Mother nature is telling us to enjoy the colors as they will soon leave us. Michigan's fall is beautiful, but what follows is not so pretty in my eyes.



Congressional Letter Writing Campaign

If you have not yet sent your letter to your Congressional Representatives via the ARRL website, you need to do that. You can find information on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org. We are all in this together and we need to put personal politics aside and use the system and do our part to save amateur radio for those who will follow. Yes, I know the letters all say the same thing, and that does not matter. The important thing here is that a united message is being sent by hundreds or thousands of constituents asking for action and each letter has a constituent's name at the bottom of the letter. The numbers of writers count as much as what we write. We, here in Michigan, are very much aware of how well calls to action can work. We have a successful track record when it comes to urging our representatives to take action on our behalf. We did this with PRB-1 and we did it again with the amateur radio exemption to the hands-free driving law. We can be successful here with your help. Encourage your friends to participate.

Amateur Radio Club Call to Action

I see that a directed call to action from ARRL to individuals on the ARRL mailing list requesting clubs to get involved in the Congressional Letter Writing Campaign was just released on October 13. This is in addition to the request for individuals sending their letters of support for the House and Senate versions of the bill. Since this notice was sent to all MI ARRL members who are signed up to receive official correspondence from HQ, (the same list to which this document is directed), I will not include it here, but will refer you to the email that you have already received by now.

Club Newsletter Contest – Call for submissions

The ARRL has a contest for club newsletters! If your club has a newsletter, you may be eligible to submit your newsletter for consideration. See the ARRL website for complete instructions and details,

2026 Michigan Section Manager

Our New Section Manager Ralph Katz, AA8RK is gearing up to take charge of the Michigan ARRL Section in January 2026. Ralph and I have already met in person to talk about the section, what we have accomplished in the past and what we might be able to accomplish in the future. My primary purpose in our conversations are to answer questions and provide some insights. Our section staff consists of great people who happen to also be amateur radio operators. They are knowledgeable and well trained in what they do. I am confident that I will be leaving our section in good hands.

ARPSC and NTS Data

MI ARPSC Data for September

ARES Members:	1235
DEC and EC Reports	71
ARES Nets	10
NETS w/NTS Liaison	12
Exercises and Training (person hours):	3215
Public Svc Events (person hours) :	1169
Emergency Ops (person hours):	223
Skywarn Ops (person hours):	0

Total ARPSC hours:	4657
Total ARPSC Hours \$ Value	\$162,016

Net Activity for September

Total Hours HF	69,7
VFH/UHF	517
Total Net Hours	587
Total Net \$ Value	\$20,427
Total APRSC and Net Activity Value:	\$182,443

Hamfests for remainder of 2025 and beginning of 2026

October 19, 2025 USECA Hamfest (CANCELED)

Dec 7, 2025 LCARC Hamfest (WB8R, AA8RK)

Mar 21, 2026 Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club Hamfest

Closing Remarks

Summer is gone and Autumn is in full swing. Leaves are falling and we have had our first frost in the extreme southern-most counties in the state. The football season is in full swing, and I suspect that basketball teams are beginning to practice. It is that time of the year where each warm (relatively speaking) day is a gift. Thought will soon turn to the hordes of trick or treaters that will surge down our sidewalks and the menu for Thanksgiving will begin to be considered.

Yup, winter is on the way and with it after the first of the year, an occasional hamfest will poke its head above the snowbanks and the new hamfest season will sprout to life.

Stay safe and be Radio Active!

Best 73,

LC

Larry Camp, WB8R

MI ARRL Section Manager

wb8r@arrl.org

517-617-4883

From the Ohio Section Manager

Tom Sly, WB8LCD

The latest edition of the Ohio Section Journal is now online and ready for you to read! There's an awful lot of Ham Radio activities going on in the Ohio Section, so get off the chair or couch you're sitting on and get out there, get involved, and get on the air!

The links below will take you directly to the newsletter. Both are also available directly from the Ohio Section Web-site (www.arrl-ohio.org) where you will also find the downloadable PDF of the Ohio Governor's proclamation for Field Day. You'll want to print it out and display it at your Field Day site.

https://arrl-ohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/OSJ_October_2025.pdf

Tom...

wb8lcd@arrl.org



I Need YOUR Help!!

Many folks have asked me the question "what has the ARRL Kentucky Section done for me lately." While it is appropriate to evaluate our benefits, now is the time to turn that question around and ask, "what can I DO for the Kentucky Section."

Now is the time for you to take on the challenge and become the driving force we need.



Instead of waiting for others to solve perceived problems or develop new initiatives, this is your opportunity to dedicate your skills and passion to the continued success and growth of Amateur Radio in the Commonwealth.

I need someone to step up and take on the challenge of being the next ARRL Section Manager. You do need to be an ARRL Member for the past two consecutive years at a minimum.

The job of Section Manager does come with a commitment of your time, but the rewards—in terms of service to the community and the future of the hobby—are immensely rewarding. I am here for all of Kentucky, urging you to consider this challenge.

You can contact me at any time to ask any question that you may have about the responsibilities, time commitment, or process of becoming a Section Manager.

I look forward to hearing from you.

73,

Scott...

Survey – Age or Term Limits for ARRL Board Members...

I still need many of you to go to the survey posted on the Great Lakes Division website and give me YOUR input on this really important question. I really need to hear your honest feedback on this topic.

Here's a link to it...

GLD Survey

Please take just a couple of minutes of your time and take the survey.

Got a question that you think should be asked? Let me know... n8sy@n8sy.com

Do you know someone who is not getting this newsletter

Hi Gang,

If you know someone who isn't already getting Radio Waves, have them sign up to receive it!! They don't have to be ARRL members to sign up, just click on the button below and in no time, they will start receiving it.

Sign up for Radio Waves

Scott's Stuff

Hi Gang,

Well, folks, it's official, it's Halloween time. The leaves are turning, the wind is howling, and every corner of our imaginations is getting a little *extra* spooky. If you thought the only place to get your terror fix this October was a creaky old mansion or a fog-filled forest, think again.

Right here in the megatropolis of Mansfield sits a piece of living (and thankfully, *inactive*) history that becomes the ultimate Halloween playground, our very own haunted prison. And they say it IS truly haunted.

Built in the 1800s, the stone-capped walls of what was once called *the Reformatory* where it was originally meant to keep the most hardened felons off the streets. Over the decades it evolved into a maximum-security state prison, its iron bars echoing 3 stories high with it's stone corridors witnessing countless stories—some of redemption, many of despair.

Fast-forward to the silver screen, and those same stone-lined hallways earned a place in cinema lore: *The Shawshank Redemption* and *Air Force One* were both filmed there.

If you've ever gotten goosebumps watching those classics, you already know the building's vibe—gritty, atmospheric, and just a touch ominous.



The “Fright Night” makeover begins in September with a core of folks that start working on the transition from just an old prison to “**Fright Night at Mansfield Penitentiary.**”

Whether you’re a die-hard horror fan, a history buff, or simply someone looking for a fresh way to celebrate October 31st, **Mansfield’s haunted prison** offers a one-of-a-kind experience that blends real-world history with cinematic terror. For me, I plan on staying home and just watching my all-time favorite Halloween movie, Christine!

OK... Enough of the scary stuff... This fall has been a whirlwind of activity attending hamfests and club meetings. And you know what? It’s been an absolute blast! I have enjoyed every single minute of being able to see and talk with all of you. There’s something undeniably special about being surrounded by people who get just as excited about ham radio and the ARRL as I do. We get to swap stories and even engaged in a little friendly boasting about our latest contacts.

The airwaves are once again starting to hum with a familiar, exciting energy. Yep, there’s a whole host of contests this month! My logbook is already feeling the pressure, and my fingers are itching to get on the air. It’s that glorious time of year when the ionosphere seems to perk up, and suddenly, every band is alive with the thrill of the chase. Here’s just a few of the contests in October:

[Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest](#), Oct 16, 0000z to Oct 17, 0300z; CW; Bands: 20; Maximum 13 wpm, RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (Member No./power); Logs due: Oct 23.

[CWops Test \(CWT\)](#), Oct 16, 0300z to Oct 16, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Member: Name + Member No./"CWA", non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: Oct 18.

[CWops Test \(CWT\)](#), Oct 16, 0700z to Oct 16, 0800z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Member: Name + Member No./"CWA", non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: Oct 18.

[NTC QSO Party](#), Oct 16, 1900z to Oct 16, 2000z; CW; Bands: 80, 40, 20; NTC Member: RST + Member No., non-Member: RST + "NM", Less than 25 wpm; Logs due: Oct 20.

[NCCC FT4 Sprint](#), Oct 17, 0100z to Oct 17, 0130z; FT4; Bands: (see rules); 4-character grid square; Logs due: Oct 19.

[Weekly RTTY Test](#), Oct 17, 0145z to Oct 17, 0215z; RTTY; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: Oct 19.

[NCCC Sprint](#), Oct 17, 0230z to Oct 17, 0300z; CW; Bands: (see rules); Serial No. + Name + QTH; Logs due: Oct 19.

[K1USN Slow Speed Test](#), Oct 17, 2000z to Oct 17, 2100z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Maximum 20 wpm, Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: Oct 19.

[JARTS WW RTTY Contest](#), Oct 18, 0000z to Oct 19, 2359z; RTTY; Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; SO: RST + age of operator, MO: RST + callsign owner's age or zero zero, Club: RST + 99; Logs due: Oct 31.

[10-10 International Fall Contest, CW](#), Oct 18, 0001z to Oct 19, 2359z; CW; Bands: 10; 10-10 Member: Name + 10-10 number + (state/province/country), Non-Member: Name + 0 + (state/province/country); Logs due: Oct 27.

[YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest](#), Oct 18, 1400z to Oct 20, 0200z; CW/Digital, SSB, Separate logs for each mode; Bands: All, except WARC; Serial No. + RS(T) + (ARRL Section/province/country); Logs due: Nov 19.

[New York QSO Party](#), Oct 18, 1400z to Oct 19, 0200z; CW, SSB, Digital; Bands: All, except WARC; NY: RS(T) + county, non-NY: RS(T) + (state/province/"DX"); Logs due: Nov 2.

[Worked All Germany Contest](#), Oct 18, 1500z to Oct 19, 1459z; CW, SSB; Bands: (Please observe contest free band segments per the rules), 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; DL, DARC-Member: RS(T) + DOK (chapter code), DL, non-DARC: RS(T) + "NM", non-DL: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: Oct 26.

[Stew Perry Topband Challenge](#), Oct 18, 1500z to Oct 19, 1500z; CW; Bands: 160; 4-Character grid square; Logs due: Nov 3.

[Feld Hell Sprint](#), Oct 18, 2000z to Oct 18, 2359z; Feld Hell; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, **6**; (see rules); Logs due: Oct 22.

[Argentina National 7 MHz Contest](#), Oct 18, 2130z to Oct 18, 2330z; SSB; Bands: 40; RS + 2-digit year first licensed; Logs due: Oct 26.

[Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW](#), Oct 19, 0000z to Oct 19, 0200z; CW; Bands: 20, 15; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: Oct 26.

[Illinois QSO Party](#), Oct 19, 1700z to Oct 20, 0100z; CW/digital (no FT4/8), Phone; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, **6**, **2**; IL: RS(T) + County, non-IL: RS(T) + (state/province/country); Logs due: Nov 20.

[Run for the Bacon QRP Contest](#), Oct 19, 2300z to Oct 20, 0100z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; RST + (state/province/country) + (Member No./power); Logs due: Oct 25.

[K1USN Slow Speed Test](#), Oct 20, 0000z to Oct 20, 0100z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Maximum 20 wpm, Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: Oct 22.

[ARRL School Club Roundup](#), Oct 20, 1300z to Oct 24, 2359z; CW, Phone, RTTY/Digital; Bands: All, except 60, 30, 17, 12m; RS(T) + Class (I/C/S) + (state/province/country); Logs due: Nov 8.

[ICWC Medium Speed Test](#), Oct 20, 1300z to Oct 20, 1400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Name + QSO No.; Logs due: Oct 23.

[OK1WC Memorial \(MWC\)](#), Oct 20, 1630z to Oct 20, 1729z; CW; Bands: 80, 40; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: Oct 24.

[ICWC Medium Speed Test](#), Oct 20, 1900z to Oct 20, 2000z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Name + QSO No.; Logs due: Oct 23.

[Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest](#), Oct 21, 0100z to Oct 21, 0159z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, **6**; RS + age group (OM, YL, Youth YL or Youth); Logs due: Oct 22.

[ICWC Medium Speed Test](#), Oct 21, 0300z to Oct 21, 0400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Name + QSO No.; Logs due: Oct 23.

[SKCC Sprint](#), Oct 22, 0000z to Oct 22, 0200z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6; RST + (state/province/country) + Name + (SKCC No./"NONE"); Logs due: Oct 25.

[Phone Weekly Test](#), Oct 22, 0230z to Oct 22, 0300z; SSB; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15; NA: Name + (state/province/country), non-NA: Name; Logs due: Oct 24.

[A1Club AWT](#), Oct 22, 1145z to Oct 22, 1300z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Member: RST + Name; Logs due: Oct 27.

[CWops Test \(CWT\)](#), Oct 22, 1300z to Oct 22, 1400z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Member: Name + Member No./"CWA", non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: Oct 25.

[Mini-Test 40](#), Oct 22, 1700z to Oct 22, 1759z; CW; Bands: 40; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: Oct 24.

[Mini-Test 80](#), Oct 22, 1800z to Oct 22, 1859z; CW; Bands: 80; RST + Serial No.; Logs due: Oct 24.

CWops Test (CWT), Oct 22, 1900z to Oct 22, 2000z; CW; Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10; Member: Name + Member No./"CWA", non-Member: Name + (state/province/country); Logs due: Oct 25.

IRTS 80m Counties Contest, Oct 22, 2000z to Oct 22, 2100z; CW, SSB; Bands: 80; EI/GI: RS(T) + Serial no. + county, non-EI/GI: RS(T) + Serial No.; Logs due: Nov 5.

So, as the world outside gets a little bit crisper and a whole lot more colorful, remember that the ham radio world is buzzing with activity. From the camaraderie of club meetings and hamfests to the thrill of contests and the potential for amazing finds at a hamfest, there's something for everyone. It's a season of connection, learning, and a whole lot of fun on the air.

The ARRL's generous spirit doesn't stop at just exciting on-air events. Have you guys been keeping an eye on the ARRL on-line auction? Oh boy, has it been a treasure trove! I've been hovering over that "bid" button just ready to strike. So far, I've managed to control my urge and not snag any goodies yet, but that may end very soon for sure. Let's just say there might be a vintage piece of gear that's been on my wish list for ages. If you haven't taken a peek yet, seriously, go check it out. You might just find that perfect something you never knew you needed. We can share stories about our auction wins, but let's keep the actual purchases mutually exclusive.

Now, for those of you involved in the vibrant heart of amateur radio – the clubs – listen up! The ARRL Foundation Grant program is still open, but the process for this year is soon to close its doors. This is your golden opportunity, your shining beacon of hope for funding that amazing club project you've been dreaming about. Whether it's a new repeater or an educational initiative, this grant can make it happen. I've seen firsthand the incredible impact these grants have on local ham radio communities. So, if you've been putting off submitting that application, stop reading this for a second, go fill out the application, and then come back and finish my rambling later. Seriously, do it now! Don't let this chance slip through your fingers like a rogue leaf in a strong autumn breeze. <https://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-grants>

Now, if you'll excuse me, I think I hear a contest calling my name... and I've got some bids to place! That's going to do it from here this time around. Catch you on the air, in a club meeting, or at a hamfest! Until then, **Be Radio Active!!!!**

73,

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

Club Leaders Everywhere

We need your club's voice now more than ever. As part of ARRL's nationwide grassroots campaign, we asked all hams to send letters to Congress urging support for the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act -- **but we need more radio clubs to stand up to be counted too.**

Why your club matters:

Your radio club isn't just a group of hams. Your club is a resource that serves your local community. You've built trust, provided public service and emergency communications, and trained new generations of hams. A letter from your club carries the weight of all that community goodwill -- and when lawmakers see that clubs like yours are behind this bill, it makes a difference.

What we're asking:

We're asking every ARRL Affiliated Club to prepare formal letters to your Congressional representatives in support of the bill. Your letters show collective support from an organized, respected local group -- not just individuals. That's powerful.

We've made it easy:

Use the following, simple, step-by-step guide to help your club draft and send your letters:

<https://send-a-letter.org/club>

You'll find everything you need -- including a sample letter in WORD format -- on our dedicated campaign page at <https://send-a-letter.org/club>.

Please take a moment to review the instructions to create your club's 3 letters: one for your US Representative, and two for your Senators. Follow all of the instructions closely, and email your letters to the address provided on the site. The process is quick -- but the impact is lasting.

If you have any questions or need help, please contact ARRL HQ or Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS (N5AUS@n5aus.com or 512-445-6262).

Let's get all radio clubs to help us PASS THE BILL.

2025 Great Lakes Division Hamfests

Here in the Great Lakes Division, we have over 50 hamfests a year. So, if you haven't started planning your hamfest schedule yet, you really need to start now.

Let's fully support all of our hamfests in every way possible. It means success for everyone. Be sure to invite your ARRL Officials as soon as your date is set.

If you are planning on having your hamfest listed in QST please be sure to start your planning well in advance of your Hamfest date, as this allows adequate time for QST Listings. QST announcements require a 3-month lead time.



To be fair to our division's clubs, the Great Lakes Division policy **now has 2 requirements**. **Any club requesting ARRL sanctioning within the Great Lakes Division must now be an ARRL Affiliated Club with a maximum of two hamfests/swaps in any given calendar year, and they must be at least four months apart.**

10/25/2025 - Hazard Hamfest Location: Hazard, KY Sponsor: Kentucky Mountains Amateur Radio Club Learn More	11/02/2025 - 2025 MARC Hamfest at MAPS Location: N. Canton, OH Sponsor: Massillon ARC Website: http://www.w8np.net Learn More
11/08/2025 - GARC Hamfest Location: Georgetown, OH Sponsor: Grant Amateur Radio Club Learn More	12/06/2025 - FCARC Winter Hamfest Location: Delta, OH Sponsor: FCARC Website: https://k8bxq.org/hamfest Learn More
12/07/2025 - LCARC Amateur Radio Swap/Hamfest Location: Troy, MI Sponsor: L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club Website: http://www.n8lc.org Learn More	

You can always find the latest information about upcoming hamfests on the Great Lakes Division website.

Great Lakes Division Hamfests

Just click to get the latest hamfest updates.

What to Do When a Loved One Leaves a Shack Full of Ham-Radio Treasure

When Jim's wife, Linda, opened the door to the little room that had been his "shack" for the last thirty-plus years, she was met with a sight that could make any newcomer's head spin: piles of vintage transceivers, stacks of coax, racks of antenna tuners, endless boxes of manuals, and a dusty copy of the *ARRL Handbook* that looked like it had survived a few wars. Jim had just passed away, and suddenly Linda was alone with a lifetime's worth of amateur-radio gear—and no clue where to start.

If you find yourself in a similar situation—a room (or a whole shed) packed with ham-radio equipment, no technical know-how, and a desire to honor a spouse's passion while also clearing space—read on. Below is a step-by-step, down-to-earth guide that blends practical logistics with a little respect for the memories those dials and tubes hold.

1. Take a Breath and Make a List

The first thing Linda did (and the first thing you should do) is *stop* and take a deep breath. The sheer volume can feel overwhelming, but breaking it down into manageable pieces makes the task less intimidating.

- a) **Grab a notebook or a spreadsheet.**
- b) **Walk through the shack and note each item.**
 - Make a column for *type* (transceiver, power supply, antenna, etc.).
 - Add a column for *brand and model* (e.g., Icom IC-7300, Yaesu FT-857).
 - Jot down any *serial numbers* or *date stamps* you can see.
- c) **Snap a quick photo** of each piece or stack. A picture is worth a thousand words when you later post listings online.

You don't need to become an expert right away; just capture enough data to start researching each item's approximate value.

2. Learn What You Have – A Quick "Ham 101"

Most of the equipment you're looking at will fall into one of three categories:

Category	Typical Value Range (U.S.)	What to Look For
Modern transceivers (2010-present)	\$150-\$600 used	Firmware version, condition of the front panel, accessories included (mic, power cable).
Vintage rigs (1970-1990)	\$200-\$1,500+ depending on rarity	Tube vs. solid-state, original knobs, presence of a matching antenna tuner.
Accessories & Antennas	\$20-\$300+	Condition of coax, connectors, and any custom-built Yagi or dipole.

A quick Google search of the model number plus “eBay sold” or “ham radio forum” will give you a ballpark figure. The *ARRL Handbook* (the one on the shelf) is also a treasure trove of specifications that can help you confirm model years and features.

3. Respect the Spouse’s Wishes

If you’re not the one who originally owned the gear, it’s worth checking if there were any expressed wishes about how it should be handled. Many hams leave notes in a journal or on a piece of cardboard, saying things like:

“If I’m ever gone, please donate the gear to the local VHF club. I’d rather it keep humming than sit in a box.”

If Linda finds something like that, it gives a clear direction. If there’s no written note, a gentle conversation with close friends or family members who knew Jim’s values can help you decide whether to **sell** or **donate**.

4. Decide Between Selling, Donating, or a Mix Selling for Cash

When to choose this:

- You need the money to cover immediate expenses (e.g., funeral costs, moving).
- The equipment is in decent working order and fetches a respectable price.

Best venues:

- **eBay** – Great for reaching a nationwide audience; use the “Used – Good” condition tag and include detailed photos.
- **QRZ.com Marketplace** – A community of hams who know exactly what they’re looking for.
- **Local ham-radio club classifieds** – Often posted on the club’s website or bulletin board.

Tips for getting top dollar:

- Clean the gear (soft cloth, gentle dusting).
- Include the original manuals, especially the *ARRL Handbook* edition that matches the equipment.
- Offer a *bundle* (e.g., transceiver + matching antenna tuner + mic) to attract buyers who want a ready-to-go setup.
- Set a **reserve price** if you go to an auction site, so you don't sell for less than you're comfortable with.

Donating to a Club or Educational Program

When to choose this:

- You want to keep the spirit of the hobby alive.
- The equipment is older or less marketable, but still functional.

How to go about it:

- a) **Contact the nearest amateur-radio club** (search “ham radio club near me”). Most clubs have a “yard-sale” day or a donation box for gear.
- b) **Explain the situation** – clubs are used to handling donations of everything from tiny handhelds to full-size HF rigs.
- c) **Ask if they need volunteers** – many clubs will gladly let a family member help set up a sale, post listings, or even run a “memory night” where members share stories about the previous owner. This not only eases the emotional load but also gives you a chance to learn a bit about the gear.

A Hybrid Approach

You can split the inventory: keep a few sentimental pieces (perhaps the one Jim used most), sell the high-value items, and donate the rest. This way you honor the hobby, get some financial relief, and avoid a mountain of boxes to store.

5. Enlist Help—Even If It's Virtual

Linda didn't have a son or daughter who was a ham, but she didn't have to go it alone:

- **Online forums** like *eHam.net* or the *ARRL* discussion boards are full of friendly volunteers who can help identify obscure models.
- **Local clubs** often have “volunteer liaisons” who will meet you at the shack, take inventory, and even help load a truck.
- **Friends of the hobby**—even if they're not licensed—often enjoy a good “treasure hunt” and can lend a set of hands for moving boxes.

A quick post saying, “Widow looking for help cataloguing a ham-radio collection,” usually generates several replies. Most people are happy to give a few hours of their time, especially when they know the cause is to preserve a beloved hobby.

6. Logistics: Moving, Storing, and Shipping

- **Moving:** If you decide to sell or donate, arrange a small moving van or a pickup truck. Heavy transceivers can weigh 30-50 pounds, so a few strong helpers will make the job safer.
- **Storing:** Keep any equipment you plan to keep in a dry, temperature-controlled area to avoid corrosion.
- **Shipping:** When you ship items online, use bubble wrap, sturdy cardboard, and “fragile” labels. Many sellers include a **shipping insurance** option—worth it for high-value rigs.

7. Wrap Up with a Touch of Memory

Finally, whatever path you take, consider creating a small tribute. A photo collage of Jim at his desk, a copy of the *ARRL Handbook* opened to a favorite page, or a short video of someone (maybe a club member) turning on a piece of his gear can turn a practical clean-out into a heartfelt celebration.

Linda found that, after the first box was sold and the next donated, the shack felt less like a burden and more like a bridge connecting her to Jim’s lifelong passion. By breaking the process into bite-size steps, leaning on the ham-radio community, and respecting Jim’s wishes, she turned a daunting maze of tubes and cables into a series of purposeful actions. If you’re standing in a similar room, remember: you’re not just moving metal and wires—you’re stewarding a legacy. With a little patience, a dash of research, and a friendly voice from the ham-radio world, you’ll find the right balance between honoring the past and making space for the future.

ARRL Year of the Club Newsletter Contest - Call for Submissions

Club Newsletter Contest — Call for Submissions!

As part of ARRL’s [Year of the Club](#) ARRL is hosting a Club Newsletter Contest.

A club newsletter can keep members informed of news and upcoming events, keep them interested between meetings and activities, teach them about ham radio skills and technology, or even make them laugh, remember, or set an operating goal — the sky’s the limit! ARRL wants to see what *your* club does with the mix of information that can go into a newsletter. Enter the Club Newsletter Contest for the chance to have your newsletter honored in QST. Here are the rules and requirements:

The Club Newsletter Contest is open to ARRL Affiliated Clubs that have published a newsletter for at least one (1) year.

Submit PDF files of 1 year’s worth of *consecutively published issues* — no gaps — ending with your most recent issue. If your newsletter is monthly, submit 12 consecutive issues. If your newsletter is bimonthly, submit six consecutive issues. If your newsletter is quarterly, submit four consecutive issues.

Publication dates may span 2024/2025/2026, if necessary. For example, if your newsletter is published monthly and the September 2025 issue is your most recent publication at the time of your submission, send us all 12 issues from October 2024 through September 2025. *Do not send additional issues once you have submitted 1 year's worth of issues.*

Submissions must include a completed Club Newsletter Contest Submission form www.arrl.org/club-newsletter-contest, which asks for information about your club and newsletter, as well as a 500-word statement on the purpose of your newsletter, and how the newsletter's contents and design fulfill that purpose. Part of the judging process will include a comparison of these statements with the newsletter samples.

Winners will be notified in May 2026, with awards presented at Huntsville Hamfest in August 2026. Winners will be announced in a 2026 issue of QST, as part of ARRL's Year of the Club celebration. The QST article may present material from the 500-word statements supplied in the winners' Club Newsletter Contest Submission Form. Please note that winners may be asked to supply high-resolution files of specific newsletter pages.

Submission Deadline: Friday, January 30, 2026, 4 p.m. Eastern time.

STOP – Right there!!!
We've come to the end...



Be Radio-Active --- See Ya' Soon!

Radio Waves is produced as a look inside of the Great Lakes Division and all that it has to offer. It is our sincerest hope that you have enjoyed this edition and will encourage your friends to be a part of the ARRL and receive the latest news and information about the ARRL and the Great Lakes Division!