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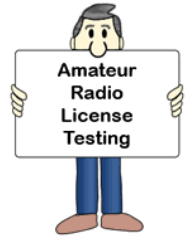


**Thursday February 1, 2024** — AARA General Club meeting at [Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shop](#) in Scott, LA at 7:00 PM.

**VE Testing @ 6:00 PM.**

For more information, check this website:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/meeting.htm>



## Words from the Editor

January 2024 has been a rough month for me and a lot of my good friends. First of all, the weather has been something unusual, freezing rain with temperature down in the mid teens and within a week back up in the lower 70's making it hard on the Louisiana farmers, truckers, and etc. Quite a few of my ham friends ended up in the hospitals due to falls and serious medical problems along with several Silent Keys leaving our airwaves.

We also have new Louisiana Governor and new Lafayette Parish Mayor along with a new ARRL Section Manager in the near future which is something interesting to see how they turn out in the upcoming years. I hope all ARRL members sent in your ballots.

My main computer crashed, Windows 10 operating system software was only thing. What caused it is still a mystery. I have 2 solid state hard drives, one with operating system and programs, the other drive had my main data. It appears the hard drives are not damaged. Periodically I do a data backup to an external drive, so a lot of my important data is backed up. All I had to do is re-install my operating system and programs which I have on DVD's, this is very time consuming and getting the program features set to my own preferences takes is quire laborious. I also keep a backup of my usernames and passwords saved in separate files (and boy do I have many, more than my memory can handle)!

I really don't see how people keep all that in their cell phones, what happens when they crash? I am just one of those that don't trust cell phones, now-a-days everyone figures you have one and want to send you a text message. I have a old fashion land line phone that I have had for about 50+ years with the same number and am always getting someone sending a text message.

I am still looking for anyone with a story to tell about their ham radio experience that would like for me to put in my newsletter would be greatly appreciated.

de

*Herman - KN5GRK*



My website is hosted by:



Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

- Albert Einstein

**Ham Radio - We Talk to the World!**

## AARA CLUB NEWS



The January 4th AARA General Meeting was held using Google Meetings Live Stream for those not able to attend the meeting at Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shoppe. It worked out well and hopefully they will continue using this feature or Zoom. The only problem I had (KN5GRK) was hearing the comments from members and guests across the room. At the General Meeting, Michael Cavell KI5ARX asked the following questions: "What do you want this ham club to be? What do you find interesting in ham radio? Responses included club POTA activations and help for new hams. Michael indicated he would like to see the following club activities: Learning days, Build days, Days to Play on the Radio, Workdays and Community Outreach".

Greg Guilbeau KI5VMT has notified the board that due to an injury he will not be able to serve as Club Secretary for this year. A special election was held for the Secretary position and KI5OQD Randy Hernandez was elected to fill the Secretary position.

AARA Club membership for year 2024 are now due. Go to [Membership Application](#), fill out the form and mail it to the address on the form.

The AARA Club has some new changes coming out in the next few months.

## ACADIANA 2 METER NET REPORTS January 2024

Net Name	Sessions	Check-ins	Total Time
AARA Monday Night Net - 146.820 @ 7:00 PM Monday	4	71	190
Acadiana SkyWarn Net - 147.040 @ 7:00 PM Tuesday	5	65	178
Silent Key Memorial Net - 146.820 @ 7:00 PM Wednesday	5	82	215
Rag Chew Net - 146.820 @ 8:00 PM Thursday	3	26	309

Results posted on the 1st of the following month. If the 146.820 is having problems, the alternate frequency will be the 147.040 repeater located in Duson, LA



## Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc. (AARA) VE Test Session Results January 4, 2024



Pretty good start for the year, 3 in 2 out. Daniel P. Meaux KJ5DZV of Maurice became a Tech & John W. Blanchard (K5ICU) of Scott upgraded to Extra.

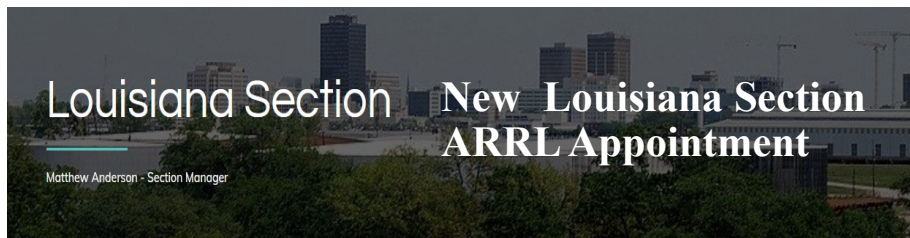
The VEs assisting this evening were: Greg ~K5LFT, Ken ~ KG5YYL, Ray ~ N5KIR, Michael ~ KI5ARX & Dave ~ N4ELM. Congratulations to the Hams & TNX to those VEs assisting...  
73, de Greg ~ K5LFT

When possible, Amateur Radio Examinations (VE Exams) will be conducted prior to the club meetings starting at 6:00 PM. Information regarding VE Exams can be found here:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/VE%20Exams.htm>

Please arrive as early as possible to help insure adequate time is available to complete your exam before the meeting starts.

Anyone needing additional information regarding VE Exams should contact Greg Dolan K5LFT at: [k5lft@arrl.net](mailto:k5lft@arrl.net).



Matt Anderson, KD5KNZ, ARRL Louisiana Section Manager, has asked me to take over the Affiliated Club Coordinator spot after Jim Bookter N5NVP who recently became a silent key.

I have been President of [Ascension Amateur Radio Club](#) the last few years

and use many resources available from the ARRL to grow our club.

This is also a gentle reminder as many clubs are electing new officers to update your club listing on the ARRL website <http://www.arrrl.org/find-a-club>. There are many clubs in Louisiana that have not updated their information in several years. Please update you information and report as soon as you can.

I'm not here to tell you how to run your club but to point out many things available that can help you run a successful, active, fun club and help you grow our hobby.

If you have any questions or suggestions, my contact information is listed below.

Elmer Tatum, N5EKF  
Louisiana ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator  
14255 Oregon Trail  
Prairieville, LA 70769  
(337) 288-6711  
EM40mg

[N5EKF@arrrl.net](mailto:N5EKF@arrrl.net)

By the way, the ARRL Louisiana Section website is undergoing some major changes.  
<https://laarrrl.org/>



## Acadiana DX Association Hamfest & Swapmeet

Sponsor: Acadiana DX Association  
ARRL Louisiana State Convention



**Date:** Friday, March 8, 2024 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM Crawfish served at 6:00 PM  
Saturday, March 9, 2024 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Location:** Rayne Civic Center  
210 Frog Festival Dr,  
Rayne, LA 70578

**Admission:** Adult \$10.00 for both days - children free with paid adult

**Hamfest Flyer:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gsVjxXREpY8mvUKINvkG4D25\\_sxUqVpN/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gsVjxXREpY8mvUKINvkG4D25_sxUqVpN/view)

See Hamfest flyer for table and Crawfish Boil reservations.

**Website:** <https://www.acadianadx.org/>

**Talk-In:** 147.040+ PL 103.5

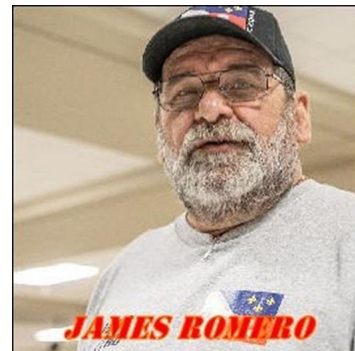
**Public Contact:** Ken Turner KG5YYL

117 Aaron Dr.

Lafayette, LA 70508

Phone: (337) 298-2755

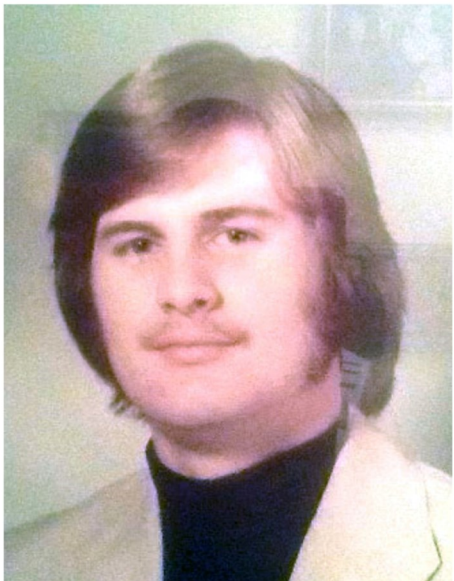
**Email:** [hamfest@acadianadx.org](mailto:hamfest@acadianadx.org)



This year's hamfest is dedicated to the memory of Silent Key James Romero K5CNU

## Mark David Holcomb KE5HSW Silent Key

January 29, 1959 — January 16, 2024



Mark David Holcomb, 64, of Many Louisiana passed away Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Mark was born January 29, 1959, to parents William and Ramona Holcomb.

He worked for Calcasieu Ambulances as a paramedic and dispatcher. He also worked for the Ward 1 Fire Department on Engine 3 selflessly serving the Moss Bluff area. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge Sam Todd N. 182. Mark has been into radio since 1975, and was a Citizen Band operator until 2006 when he became a Technician and then upgraded to General 2007. He had his American Radio Relay League License and had a passion for the Ham Radio where his handle was KE5HSW.

Those left to cherish his memory are his daughters, Kalene Holcomb, Marlene Holcomb (Brandon) and Julie Trejo (Sergio); son, Travis Pitre (Jessica); stepdaughters, Antoinette Nelson (Brandon) and Rachelle Harper (Samuel); mother, Ramona Minyard Holcomb; grandchildren, Kaileianna (JT), Skylar, Brandon, Austin, Raelynn, and Rhett; great grandchild, Grayson; sisters, Karen Turner (Michael) and Rhonda Harb, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 486 Mount Olive Rd, Many, LA 71449 on Monday January 22, 2024 at 3:00 PM.

## Don Fauntleroy W5IT Silent Key

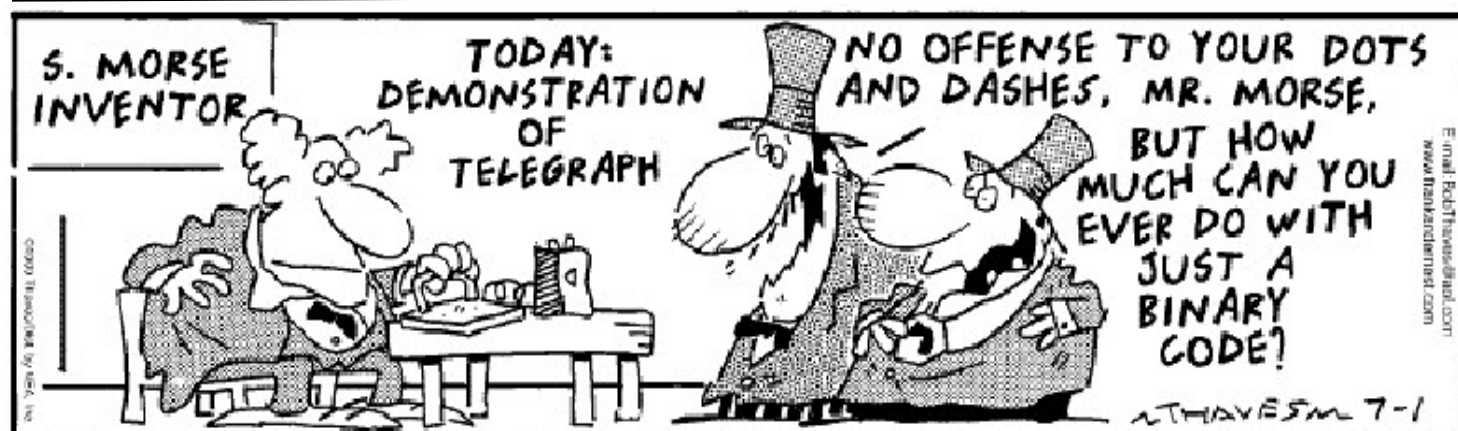
May 17, 1959 – January 5, 2024



Donald Fauntleroy, W5IT, of Baton Rouge passed away on Friday, January 5th, 2024, at the age of 64 at about 1:30 pm while in Hospice care at the Carpenter House in Baton Rouge, La. Services were held on January 15, 2024 at Greenoaks Memorial in Baton Rouge.

Don was a lifelong resident of Central, and was retired from Entergy. He was an Eagle Scout, Amateur Radio Operator, and a reserve deputy with the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office.

Don is survived by his wife, Cathy, three daughters and sons in laws, Christina Fauntleroy Martin, Ashley Fauntleroy LeBlanc, Melissa Fauntleroy, and grandchildren.



## CONTACT

Sierra Harrop, W5DX  
ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager  
[sharrop@arrl.org](mailto:sharrop@arrl.org)  
[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ARRL is New Publisher of Gordon West, WB6NOA

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® 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.

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

- *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.

**About ARRL** | ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® was founded in 1914 as The American Radio Relay League, and is a noncommercial organization of radio amateurs. ARRL numbers within its ranks the vast majority of active radio amateurs (or "hams") in the US and has a proud history of achievement as the standard-bearer in promoting and protecting amateur radio. ARRL supports members with opportunities to discover radio, to develop new skills, and to serve their local communities. For more information about ARRL and amateur radio, visit [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).



It's always good to remember that operational ethics in radio communications encompass a set of principles guiding operators towards responsible, courteous, and lawful conduct while engaging in radio communication. These ethical standards form the backbone of the radio communication community, fostering an environment of respect, cooperation, and safety among operators worldwide.

Respecting and adhering to licensing regulations and frequency allocations is fundamental to ethical radio communication. Compliance with these guidelines ensures fair and efficient use of the radio spectrum, minimizing interference and promoting orderly communication.

Courtesy plays a pivotal role in fostering positive interactions among operators. Ethical communication involves being polite, considerate, and patient while engaging with others on the airwaves. Practicing good communication etiquette, such as avoiding unnecessary interruptions, waiting for an appropriate break to join a conversation, and refraining from using offensive language, contributes to a harmonious operating environment.

Emergency preparedness and assistance during crises embody the humanitarian aspect of radio communication ethics. Being vigilant and ready to provide support or relay emergency information during disasters exemplifies the practical application of radio skills for the greater good of communities.

Emergency preparedness and assistance during crises embody the humanitarian aspect of radio communication ethics.

Being vigilant and ready to provide support or relay emergency information during disasters exemplifies the practical application of radio skills for the greater good of communities.

Furthermore, respecting the privacy and confidentiality of communications is essential. Operators should refrain from disclosing private information and maintain the confidentiality of conversations unless explicitly permitted by all parties involved.

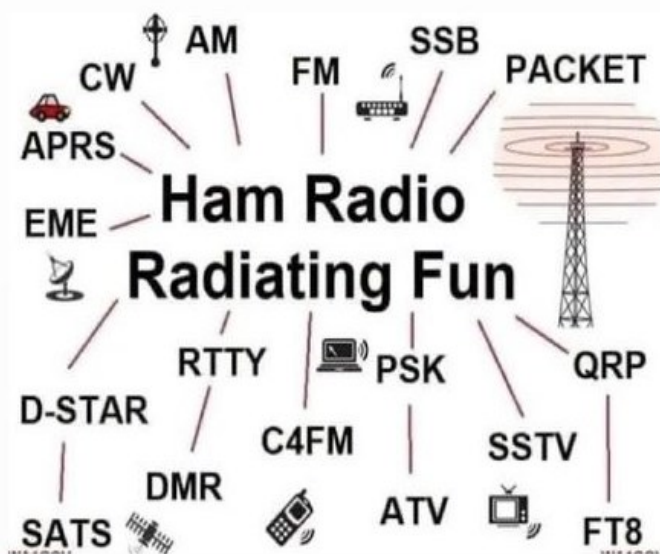
Ethical conduct in radio communication is not solely about following rules; it's a commitment to integrity, responsibility, and service. Upholding these ethical standards not only enhances the quality of radio communication but also fosters trust, cooperation, and a sense of community among operators, contributing to a positive and inclusive radio environment.

Be ethical on the radio.  
73!! PY6CJ.

## Ham Radio - Radiating Fun

Ham radio, a captivating world of wireless communication, embodies a unique blend of technical fascination and sheer enjoyment. Enthusiasts, known as "hams," immerse themselves in a spectrum of activities, from experimenting with frequencies to engaging in global conversations. This hobby not only fosters friendships across borders but also serves as a reliable means of communication during emergencies. Building, experimenting, and connecting, ham radio enthusiasts find endless joy in the diverse experiences this hobby offers, creating a vibrant community fueled by a shared love for radio technology.

<https://www.facebook.com/py6cj>



## Jackson MS Capital City Hamfest 2024

Sponsor: Jackson Amateur Radio Club  
ARRL Mississippi State Convention

Friday February 2, 2024 ---- 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
Saturday February 3, 2024 ---- 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Location: Mississippi Trademart  
1200 Mississippi St.  
Jackson, MS 39201

Admission: \$10.00 for both days - Children under 12 get in free

Tables: Dealer \$30.00 - Flea Market \$25.00

VE Testing: Saturday 8:00 AM

Hamfest Flyer: [http://www.msham.org/sites/default/files/Hamfest\\_2024\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.msham.org/sites/default/files/Hamfest_2024_flyer.pdf)

Website: <http://www.msham.org>

Talk-In: 146.76 - 77 Hz

Public Contact: Jim Armstrong , AK5J  
1103 Pinehurst Place  
Jackson, MS 39202  
Phone: 601-709-6740  
Email: [ak5J@arrl.net](mailto:ak5J@arrl.net)



## Orange (Texas) Hamfest 2024

Sponsor: Orange ARC, Jefferson County ARC and Beaumont ARC

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024

Time: 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Admission: \$10.00 per person -

VE Testing: Saturday @ 10:00 AM - No registration required

Location: Orange County Convention & Expo Center  
11475 FM 1442  
Orange, TX 77630

Website: [https://www.gsl.net/w5nd/index\\_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm](https://www.gsl.net/w5nd/index_files/HAMFEST%20INFO/hamfest%20info.htm)

Talk-In: 147.180 + 600 Hz PL 103.5

Public Contact: Rocky Wilson , N5MTX  
3736 3rd Ave.  
Orange, TX 77630  
Phone: 409-988-8906  
Email: [rockywilson@hotmail.com](mailto:rockywilson@hotmail.com)



### Hamfest Event Schedule and Fees:

6:00AM — Setup, Dealers & Tailgating  
7:30AM — Hamfest opens for flea market,  
dealers & tailgating  
10:00 AM — VE testing in Meeting Room  
#28am -12noon

#### Programs & Forums

1:30 PM - Grand Prize Drawings  
2:00 PM—Close

### FEES:

Admission .... \$10.00 per person (Age 12 years  
& younger free admission)

Dealer tables ..... \$15.00ea

Flea market tables ..... \$15.00ea

Tailgate spaces ..... Free - there is limited  
spaces in designated tailgating area.

Friday Dinner .....\$15.00 per plate

The tickets for the Grand Prize and door  
prizes are: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, 12  
for \$10.00, etc.

The Grand Prizes will be drawn at 1:30 p.m.  
You NEED NOT BE PRESENT for the Grand  
Prize drawings.

You MUST BE PRESENT for all door prize  
drawings.

Door Prize tickets will be put back in for  
The Grand Prize Drawings.



Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday, is a widely-recognized tradition observed globally. Its purpose is to celebrate rich, indulgent foods before the commencement of Lent's fasting period in Christian faith. With its grand parades, flamboyant masks and costumes, and festive gatherings, Mardi Gras symbolizes a final, joyous binge before the solemnity of Lent. Mardi Gras incorporates various elements such as bead-tossing, music, and dance. The quintessential beads, typically purple, green, and gold, represent justice, faith, and power, respectively.

Mardi Gras, introduced to America in the late 17th century by French explorers, had its origins in Medieval Europe. Initially celebrated in Mobile, Alabama, it later found its most famous home in New Orleans, Louisiana. The celebration's important aspects were maintained, although it underwent natural cultural adaptations that molded the American version of Mardi Gras. The event became a significant fusion of different cultures and traditions, prominently featuring communities' local practices, music, and cuisine.

In America, Mardi Gras is widely celebrated, especially in southern states like Louisiana and Alabama. It includes both family-friendly and adult events, characterized by extravagant parades with elaborate floats, marching bands, and carnival krewes. The parties, balls, and King Cake parties are also a significant part of the celebration - the person who finds a small plastic baby in the cake is crowned "king" or "queen" and must host the next year's party. While Mardi Gras parties may begin as early as January 6 (Twelfth Night), the main event is always the day before Ash Wednesday, marking the start of the Lenten season in the Christian calendar.

## Facts about Mardi Gras

- Some families eat a festive King Cake on Mardi Gras. Although it is traditionally served on Epiphany, many cultures, especially the people of Louisiana, savor the sweet cake the night before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras cakes are often decorated with a toy baby to represent the baby Jesus.
- Green, gold, and purple are the official colors of Mardi Gras, and they all have roots in Christianity. Green represents faith, while purple symbolizes justice. Gold stands for power.
- Mardi Gras is not celebrated as an official church holiday, but is celebrated because the following day starts Lent, a 40-day period of preparation and penitence before Easter. [Ash Wednesday](#) marks the beginning of Lent, so Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday", is often the last day that people may indulge before beginning dietary restrictions. In Roman Catholic tradition, the faithful refrain from eating meat during Lent except on Sundays. Fish is acceptable in some Latin American countries.
- Although the holiday is rooted in the Christian calendar, not many churches observe it with a worship service. Most observances include festive parties, balls, and parades.

<https://www.wincalendar.com/Mardi-Gras>

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## Write for a Club Station

Clubs are the backbone of the amateur radio community. Whether you're part of a special interest or general club, its members are the community that you serve. In the same way that every ham is different, each club is also different -- not every club will offer the same programs and projects to their member community. *QST*'s newest column, "Club Station," is a space for clubs to share their practical ideas about what has helped lead them to their success. If your club has developed a creative way to get around common challenges, we want to hear from you!

If you're interested in writing for "Club Station," please follow the author guidelines that are tailored to this column. Additionally, you'll find a Club Profile Form at the end of the author guidelines, which must be filled out and included with your submission. **If this form is missing, your submission will not be considered complete.**

[Club Station Author Guidelines and Profile Form](#)

**ARRL Club News for January 16, 2024**





# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 ♥	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

## Schedule of Events

- ◆ February 1 — AARA General Club meeting at [Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shop](#) in Scott, LA at 7:00 PM. VE Testing @ 6:00 PM
- ◆ February 13 — Mardi Gras
- ◆ February 13 — World Radio Day
- ◆ February 14 — Valentine's Day
- ◆ February 19 — President's Day
- ◆ February 24 — Orange Hamfest



## World Radio Day



World Radio Day 2024 will be celebrated once again on the **13th of February**. This will be the 11th edition of World Radio Day. In 2011, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) proclaimed the event at their 36th Conference after it was put forward as an idea by the Kingdom of Spain.

<https://nationalday365.com/world-radio-day/>

**The EASY WAY**  
Amateur Radio  
Study Guides &  
"How-To" Series

**Donations to the ADXA Hamfest & Swapmeet**  
March 8 & 9, 2024

Many Thanks to Easy Way Ham Books, one of our Hamfest Sponsors who provided some great Door Prizes [Easy-WayHamBooks.com](http://Easy-WayHamBooks.com)

**Jan. 13, 1700Z – 2359Z, NI6IW**, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* Museum Ship. **Last NVA MIG Shot Down by USS Midway F-4.** 7.250 14.320; PSK 14.070; D-STAR on PAPA System repeaters. QSL. USS *Midway* Museum Ship, 910 N. Harbor Dr. COMEDTRA, San Diego, CA 92101. [www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw)

**Feb. 10, 1700Z – 2359Z, NI6IW**, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* Museum Ship. **Commemorating the End of Operation Desert Storm.** 7.250 14.320; 14.070 PSK31; D-STAR on PAPA System repeaters. QSL. USS *Midway* Museum COMEDTRA, 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101. [www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw](http://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw)

**Feb. 11 – Feb. 19, 0000Z – 2359Z, W7P and W7P/O**, Flagstaff, AZ. Northern Arizona DX Association. **Ten-Year Countdown to the 100th Anniversary of the Discovery of Pluto.** 7.290 14.090 14.290 21.290.

Certificate & QSL. W7P c/o NADXA, 6315 Townsend Winona Rd., Flagstaff, AZ 86004. [www.nadxa.com](http://www.nadxa.com)

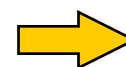
**Feb. 17 – Feb 24, 0000Z – 2100Z, W9MID**, Franklin, IN. Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. **40th Anniversary.** 7.227 14.265. QSL. Chris Frederick, 255 Hillendale Dr., Greenwood, IN 46142. [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)

**Feb. 18 – Feb. 19, 1500Z – 2000Z, K4US**, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. **George Washington's Birthday.** 7.042 7.242 14.042 14.242. QSL. MVARC, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. [www.mvarc.org](http://www.mvarc.org)

**Feb. 18 – Feb. 24, 1700Z – 1900Z, W0CXX**, Cedar Rapids, IA. Collins Amateur Radio Club. **Engineer's Week at Collins Aerospace.** 7.180

IA 52233. *The times will be during lunch breaks; however, club members may operate at other times during these days, especially Sunday, Feb. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 24.* [www.qrz.com/db/w0cxx](http://www.qrz.com/db/w0cxx)

**Feb. 19 – Feb. 24, 0001Z – 2359Z, WS7G**, Monitor, WA. Columbia Basin DX Club. **George Washington's Birthday.** 7.222 7.260 14.255 14.322. Certificate & QSL. Brian Nielson, 11650 Rd. 1 SE, Monitor, WA 98836. [www.cbn.homestead.com/ws7g.html](http://www.cbn.homestead.com/ws7g.html)



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