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CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings

Monthly on First
Thursdays

Next Meeting Date/Time
7:00 pm
Thurs, September 3rd,
2026

Build & Learn Sessions

Most Months on
Third Thursdays

Next Session Date/Time
6:00 pm or 7:00 pm
Check the club [calendar](#)

Location
Pilgrim Community
Church
[500 Arch Street](#)
[Leavenworth, KS 66048](#)

Club Breakfast

Every Thursday
7:30 am
at

[The Depot](#) 1887
781 Shawnee Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048



The depot
est 1887

From the President's Desk

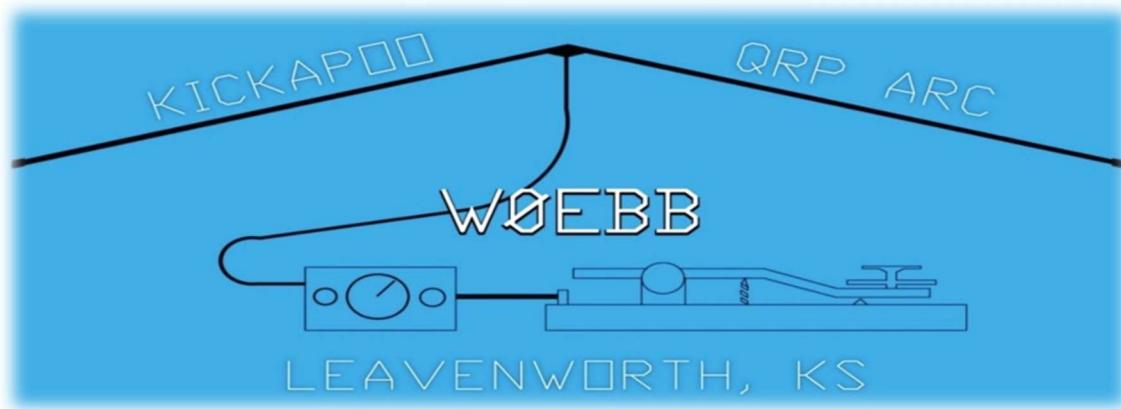
Greetings everyone. I hope you all are doing well and are in good health. September is here and I can't believe how time is flying by. September 19 the Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club will be having the Harvy House contest. I hope all of you will try to come out and participate. Also on the 19th is the Emergency Preparedness fair in Leavenworth. And Bill Gery is looking for volunteers for the Hawk 100 race on September 12th and 13th. If you would like to volunteer, please let Roxann or myself know and we will get your information to Mr. Gery.

The Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club website is currently down and is being updated. Rick NJ0P is working very hard to get it done. It may take some time. There are a few things that the Executive Board and Rick need to decide on before it can be finished. I promise that we will try to get it back up and running soon.

As fall approaches I would like to remind everyone that this is a good time to get your winter equipment (generators, snow blowers, etc.) serviced and ready. As fast as time seems to fly by the cold weather will be upon us before you know it. Preparedness is much better before the emergency happens, rather than during or after.

In closing, I would like to remind you that volunteers are still needed for the weekly nets. No one is perfect the first time and it is good training in case the time arises when an emergency net is needed. Thank you all for the time you put in to make PKARC the best amateur radio club ever.

73s W9WTY Stephen Fick



From the Kickapoo QRP ARC operating desk

The month of August found us traveling to one of our favorite hamfests in Huntsville Alabama. This city is known as Rocket City due to it being the home of the Marshall Spaceflight Center which is well worth visiting if you're ever in the area.

On the trips to Huntsville we always stay in a state park called Monte Sano which is on the Eastern edge of the city. This is also on a mountain and qualifies as a SOTA summit. We always reserve cabin ten a year in advance as we set up to operate from the screened in porch of the old stone cabin built by the CCC in the 1930's. The cabins have all been remodeled in recent years and are very nice and relaxing to stay in. This year on the first night in the cabin we had a very heavy storm move through for a two hour period. I don't ever recall hearing thunder as loud as it was that night and hope no serious damage was done from lightning strikes. We were just fine but I bet some of the RV and tent campers had a fun night dealing with the storm.

The Huntsville Hamfest is a two day event held on the third weekend of August in the huge Von Braun Center. This is probably about the third largest hamfest in the US and very well attended. Saturday is a big day with several hundred swap tables, plus a number of rows of commercial vendors like Yaesu, ICOM, Spooltenna, Elecraft and the list goes on. There are hourly prizes give out on both Saturday and Sunday and these are very nice prizes making it well worth the trip if you should happen to win one.

On Saturday evening we host a gathering of other SOTA type hams at the cabin on Monte Sano Mountain. We are set up to activate the summit and offer the use of our equipment to the other hams that stop by to visit and chat for a while and snack with us. It's always a fun time with lots of interesting stories being told by the other hams and their experiences activating summits around the US.

This summit is fairly flat making it easy to activate by all the hams as there is also RV and tent camping available with some of the tents being permanent and set up like a small cabin. Last year I think there was a record set by the POTA group for the number of people activating the same park at the same time.

Fortunately our cabin is about 300 feet off of the main road through the park and as such gives us a fair amount of both privacy and low noise levels. The speed limit through the park is only 15 mph and the traffic is light. There are a lot of foot races and such on weekends, plus plenty of Deer in the early morning and evening hours.

There are a large number of trees available near the cabins to string up wire type antennas which we do every years, plus a picnic table and fire pit if you desire to use those items. Of course you can also set up vertical antennas, but we have had our best luck using wire antennas like the 40/20 trap dipole we built in one our building sessions, or a Spooltenna which gives us four bands to use if desired. This year we opted to use a Spooltenna which gave us four bands and it performed well in somewhat poor band conditions.

Looking forward to the Harvey House special event operation in September and hope we have a good turnout for that event.

See you at the September PKARC meeting and our weekly Thursday morning breakfast gatherings at the Depot Restaurant.

Gary Auchard - W0MNA



Secretary's

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Pilot Knob Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
August 6th, 2026



Call to Order

The meeting of the PKARC was held on August 6th, at Pilgrim Community Church. It began at 7:00 pm and was presided over by Stephen (W9WTY) President, Guy (KF0KOS) Vice President, John (KF0LNZ) Treasurer and Roxann (KZ0IMO) as Secretary.

Roll Call

Those in attendance: Thadd (KF0PXE), Stephen (W9WTY), Scott (K2SCT), Vic (KE0SYO), Roxann (KZ0IMO), John (KF0LNZ), Ron (N0CALL), Loren (KB0YME), Max (K0MDP), Steve (W0SER), Tom (KF0RWS), Guy (KF0KOS), Jeff (KA0ARW), Mark (KF0TXA), Ashley (KF0TKM), Stephen (KF0TKN) Martha (W0ERI), Gary (W0MNA), Keith (KF0KBC), Jim (W0MLT), Alex (NB1t), Loren K (KF0QAL), Mike (W0MWT), Emily (AF0GV), Sarah (KE0YXG), Phil (KF0DQA), Don (KF0MZG), Mike (KE0GEX) and new member Robert (KI5FFE and guest Ron (N0CALL)..

Stephen initiated the round of introductions with the membership.

Stephen then talked about the test MESH node he put together and how we plan to ask the hospitals if we can do a trial period. Ashley mentioned the MESH Core that Kansas City is moving towards. Mark gave a brief overview of the difference between Meshtastic and MESH Core. Stephen thanked those who were able to join him at Weston on Friday. They made some POTA contacts and learned some more FT8.

Guy was given the floor. He reviewed the Silent Auction guidelines and questions asked were answered. Next Guy handed the floor to Roxann. She then asked for one plus and one minus about Field Day 26.

Some pluses mentioned: good attendance, liked dedicated antenna setup, well organized, good food, welcoming, opportunities to try the different setups, comradery and wiliness to share skills and knowledge, good weather and it was open and spacious.

Some negatives: Mast safety needs reiteration, lack of participation outside of the club members, no tomatoes, need more Bratz, the shifts after midnight need better coverage so that we maintain continuous coverage, talk frequency needed to be published sooner, not enough CW skill (personal), better directions at the entrance of the location and a better map for visitors who stop in, needed a 2am-4am shift, no satellite, needed and 80m-10m antenna.

Next Roxann asked for a motion to approve the June JARA minutes. Vic H made the motion to approve as printed in the August QRZ. Keith seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Then she asked for a motion to approve the June SHARC minutes. Vic H made the motion to approve as printed in the August QRZ. Gary seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report

John passed out the Treasurers Report and then discussed the Financials for both June and July.

Vic made a motion to approve June Treasures Report. Gary Seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Vice made a motion to approve July Treasures Report. Ashely seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Roxann put on her ARES hat and talked about the upcoming Q4 ARES meeting, thanked members who supported the FIFA Backup net and our served agency Prime Health Care. Then she thanked those who helped with the Leavenworth County Fair and then she mentioned the upcoming preparedness fair on September 19th and stated a signup genius link will be coming out for that.

She then asked Steve R if he wanted to make any announcements. He went over the plan for the Fred Harvey House activation on September 19th, and mentioned that for the MESH node installation and for the annual maintenance (for the JARA equipment) that some scheduling still needs to be done with Max. Stephen said he wanted to talk to Max afterwards about the climbing gear needed to also be a climber. The Kansas QSO was covered as well and he answered questions. Lastly, he reviewed the upcoming build session and the intent to cover the Nano VNA and/or Chokes. He is also requesting ideas for future build sessions from the group. Mike mentioned "Free DV=digital voice on HF". Mike was then asked if he would like to present on the matter and he said yes. Lastly, he announced that Emily is now a new Extra Class operator. The group gave congratulations to her.

New Business - None

Adjournment

Thadd motioned for Adjournment and Loren M seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Kosmicki, KZ0IMO

PKARC Secretary



SHARC Net
First Monday of
the month
1915-1930 Hours
147.000 (+) 151.4
Hz

Saint John Hospital Amateur Radio Club (SHARC)

SHARC provides an identity and rallying point for Radio Amateurs participating in activities at Saint John Hospital and supporting Providence Medical Center. The Amateur Radio portion of the Saint John Hospital Command Center is called the **SHARC Tank**. Club Call: **KFØLOG** President: Keith- **KFØKBC** Vice President: Tom - **KFØRWS** Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee: **Roxann – KZØIMO**

Sept 14th, 2026, SHARC NET supporting the KCHEART Monthly Test

Team 1 (W0SER, KE0SYO and W9WTY) reports to SJH

Team 2 (K0MDP, KD7QOR, and KB0YME) reports to PMC

***Bring Laptop to PMC**

All others report your availability to respond via 147.000 (+) 151.4 Hz FM to KFØLOG between 7:15 pm and 7:30 pm.

The **Kansas City Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Team (KCHEART)** is the regional coordinating body for all hospital-based Amateur Radio stations used in auxiliary communications support to their host hospital. KCHEART forms a valuable voice and slow-speed data network between medical facilities.

With three months left of 2026; I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your dedication, willingness to step up and cover one another and most of all I am grateful that you all are enjoying the comradery of your teams.

With that said I would like to request feedback for the end of the year in regards to any item/s that you may feel need to be clarified or documents that need to be cleaned up. Basically, any improvements to be made for 2027.

Very appreciative,

Roxann Kosmicki -KZ0IMO



Reportable Hours

Exercises
Training
Public Service
Community Service
Emergencies
Weather
Meetings
Unclassified Events

<https://forms.gle/UowzGAE3RVFLm3tD7>

Leavenworth County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)

Emergency Coordinator: Roxann Kosmicki -KZ0IMO, AUXC

Website: <https://KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us>

Groups.io: <https://groups.io/g/KS-LV-ARES>

ARES Credentialing

If you're new to ARES and need to start your credentials quest, here is a streamlined way to attain what you need.

1. **Download** the updated Amateur Radio Operator Credentialing Requirements and Resource Typing document revised on 01/17/25 from KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us. Link is in the New Credentialing Requirements article (main page).

2. **Complete** the requirements for Radio Operator - Level IV. Courses are free and online at FEMA's Independent Study Program at <https://training.fema.gov/is/>.

3. **Submit** form and supporting documents according to instructions downloaded in Step 1. On the form, where it says, "MECC Agency including contact person name and email" use the following according to group you are affiliating with:

Leavenworth County ARES®
Roxann Kosmicki

sobelizard@rocketmail.com

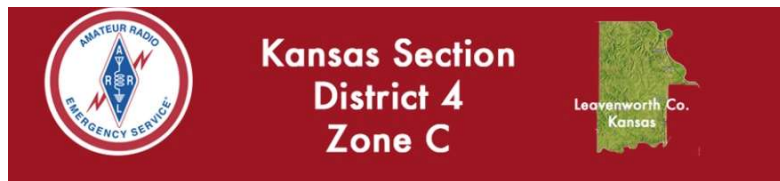
Leavenworth Co. Emergency Mgmt
Zach Phillips, Master Deputy
zphillips@lvsheriff.org

KCHEART
Matt May, Director
Kc4wcg@gmail.com

SHARC/St John Hosp
Roxann Kosmicki
sobelizard@rocketmail.com

4. **Record** your achievements on your KS-LV-ARES Task Book. Task book is available upon request from Roxann-KZ0IMO. The Task Book will show the requirements you still need to complete for credentialing at the next level up.

NOTE: This section is reprinted from the February 2025 Newsletter. This information is also available on KS-LV-ARES.signaleer.us



Roxann Kosmicki
KS-LV-ARES Emergency
Coordinator

September!!! We made it! Hopefully the weather will start to cool down.

Turns out August was kind to those of us who need our downtime to recover from all the summer activities. I hope you are feeling recharged as we head into the fall season. I am ready to bake pie and rake leaves into piles. My all-time favorite kid picture is to have my kids jumping into the leaf piles with the dog joining them.

Our next meeting is this September 5th from 10- noon at Leavenworth Station 1 at 3600 S 20th Trafficway, Leavenworth Kansas. I have updated the calendar notice on the PKARC groups.io.

I still have two slots open for the September 19th Preparedness Fair from noon until 3pm. If you are available for that just let me know or use this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4AA9AC29AAFF2-64894442-september>

Right after the preparedness fair I am heading down to Arkansas to participate in the Central States Communications Exercise to keep my AUXC task book up to date. I will be gone from late 9/21 and return late 9/26. I will be traveling with Sandy (KF0MCI) from Johnson County ARES. She is almost finished with her signatures. I look forward to those who are interested in this path to ask questions and sharing with all of you the happenings from the event. We do have two others in our group who have just started their Auxiliary Communication task book (exciting)!

As always at the end of the month..... I remind you to send me your volunteer hours for anything other than KCHEART, JARA and ARES nets. For example- you attend a build session or you make an item on the Task book list (you will need to show it to me), or you check into any other local nets (PKARC- it counts). You just need to let me know. Also, your training hours for FEMA classes, CW classes or meetings for your AEC positions all count. If you are doing EmComm Winlink you will need to CC my rocketmail email address to get credit.

Please use this link to send me volunteer hours:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0kJOkv6b_oGmWpfZRwSw8ZDbDWDMMXXXjC74jK-O7SMuPDPQ/viewform?usp=preview

Stay Cool, Stay Ready,
Roxann Kosmicki – KZ0IMO
KS-LV-ARES ARRL® Emergency Coordinator

Sign up [link](#) for PKARC positions

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Upcoming Net positions

	6-Sep	13-Sep	20-Sep	27-Sep
JARA NC	KZ0IMO	KE0SYO	W0SER	KF0KOS
JARA ANC		KZ0IMO	OPEN	KZ0IMO
JARA LOG		W0SER	KF0RWS	W9WTY
ARES NC	KZ0IMO	W9WTY	KF0RWS	KD7QOR
ARES ANC		KF0KBC	KB0YME	KZ0IMO
ARES LOG		KZ0IMO	KE0SYO	KB0YME

PKARC	
For the Month of September	
Net Control	KF0KBC
Alternate Net Control	W0SER
Logger	OPEN
For the Month of October	
Net Control	W0SER
Alternate Net Control	OPEN
Logger	OPEN

Digital Shorts

PACTOR: Reliable Digital Communication Over HF

PACTOR is a family of digital radio protocols designed for reliable data communication over high-frequency (HF) radio. Its name combines packet radio and AMTOR, the technologies from which it developed. Introduced in 1991, PACTOR was created to handle the noise, fading, interference, and multipath distortion common on long-distance HF channels.

Unlike one-way digital modes, PACTOR uses automatic acknowledgments. The receiving station confirms correctly received data and requests retransmission of damaged blocks. This allows messages to arrive accurately even when propagation conditions change during a contact.

The Development of PACTOR

The original PACTOR-I was relatively slow but robust. It was useful for exchanging short text messages over difficult HF paths.

PACTOR-II improved efficiency and speed, making longer messages and mailbox systems more practical. Operators could connect to a distant station, upload messages, and retrieve incoming mail without needing an internet connection.

PACTOR-III introduced more advanced modulation and coding. Its maximum uncompressed rate is approximately 2,722 bits per second, with higher effective speeds possible when transmitting compressible text. It became useful for e-mail, weather bulletins, emergency messages, and small files.

PACTOR-4 is the latest major version. It includes adaptive equalization, improved error correction, interference rejection, and multiple speed levels. Its gross data rate can reach approximately 5,500 bits per second, while compression can produce higher effective rates for suitable text. Already compressed files generally do not benefit as much from this feature.

PACTOR-4 also includes a low-speed mode for weak or heavily disturbed signals. Stations can reduce speed to preserve reliability, then increase it again when conditions improve. The protocol remains compatible with earlier PACTOR versions, although both stations need compatible equipment to use the latest features.

How Amateur Operators Use PACTOR

The most familiar modern application is Winlink e-mail. A station equipped with an HF transceiver, antenna, computer, and PACTOR modem can connect to a gateway and exchange messages through radio.

For example, a sailor crossing an ocean may use PACTOR to receive weather forecasts, send position reports, exchange e-mail, and communicate with a shore station while outside cellular coverage. A remote expedition could use the same system to send daily status updates or equipment reports.

PACTOR is also valuable for emergency communications. After a hurricane, earthquake, or other disaster, an amateur station might send:

- A shelter supply request
- A damage-assessment report
- A medical or logistics message
- A daily situation update
- A formal traffic message

Because the system confirms successful delivery and can retry damaged blocks, it is better suited to important data than many unacknowledged digital modes.

An example message might look like this:

STATION: VP8XXX

TIME: 1840Z

POSITION: 54°48'S 068°18'W

WIND: 22 KT

PRESSURE: 1008 HPA

STATUS: ALL CREW WELL

Equipment and Operating Considerations

A PACTOR station generally requires an HF SSB transceiver, antenna and tuner, computer, compatible modem, and software such as a Winlink client. Unlike software-only modes such as FT8 or PSK31, PACTOR usually depends on dedicated modem hardware.

A clean transmitted signal, accurate frequency control, correct audio levels, and an effective antenna are essential. High power cannot compensate for poor station setup or bad propagation.

PACTOR differs from other digital modes because it is designed primarily for dependable data transfer rather than casual contacts. FT8 is optimized for short weak-signal exchanges, while PSK31 and RTTY are commonly used for keyboard conversations. PACTOR's particular strength is sending complete messages and files over long-distance HF links.

Although newer communication technologies are faster and more widely available, PACTOR remains useful where internet, cellular, or satellite service is unavailable. Its combination of global range, error recovery, and efficient data handling makes it an important tool for maritime communication, emergency traffic, remote operations, and resilient amateur-radio networking.

Perspective

I was recently perusing an article on the www.HamRadioPlanet.com website named, *10 Historical Moments in Ham Radio History You Should Know About: Key Milestones and Developments*. What struck me was the slow progress that we have made in amateur radio in the last century and a quarter since Marconi harnessed the electromagnetic airwaves. The first four events, the first amateur radio licenses issued, the formation of the American Radio Relay League, the first reliable trans-Atlantic radio communication and the creation of the call sign system, all occurred in the 1910's and 1920's. We didn't even have single side-band until 1947. Then we jumped to into the space age in 1961 with the first amateur radio satellite. Packet radio came about in 1978 followed by amateur radio aboard the International Space Station in 2000. Most recently, Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) was unveiled in 2010 and FT8 showed up in 2017. With technology and society changing so very quickly today, you would think that there would have been more frequent innovations. But here we are, still using CW and preparing for a time when the magic of modern communications technology will fail.

Are we just a bunch of Luddites afraid of progress? I don't think so. Rather, I think that we are believers in what has proven successful for over a century -- harnessing the elements to communicate with other human beings all over the globe.

And there are so many advancements being made in the hobby today. Now modes like M17 and FreeDV are popping up. Every day our equipment becomes smaller and more powerful at the same time. Existing technologies are being combined in new ways to provide capabilities that we have never seen before. The future is very bright.

Like every single generation, we have a tendency to look back at our forefathers and wonder just how they got by with their primitive ways and means, then dream about a brave new world to come. I wonder just what the amateur radio hobbyists in the 1920's envisioned for our day.

It's okay to honor the past in our thoughts and deeds, but we also have to dream of what is next and try to make those dreams come true for those that will follow us. Getting too caught up in either one leaves us very limited.

Use your knowledge and skills to give someone else a boost into the brave new world. 73's, everyone.

-- B. N. Elmer

Loose Wires: Update from Oklahoma for September 2026

Contributed by Rick Reichert, NJØP, Foreign Correspondent, Tahlequah, OK



FTDX101MP First Impressions. It finally arrived! Amid shifting delivery dates, the Yaesu FTDX101MP arrived mid-August. I am now in knob/switch nirvana. There are features that I have never heard of before that are quite amazing. One is called *VC Tune* which uses a motor-driven capacitor to slightly detune the receive signal before the amplifiers and processing. It reduces the noise leaving more signal to amplify and process. Formerly unreadable signals are stand out copyable. I'm still discovering the hundreds of other features, but it has already beat my expectations. Despite my super system, things did not go so well for the KSQP.



2026 Kansas QSO Party. KSQP was the maiden voyage for the new radio. One thing I had not anticipated was my disadvantaged location. Being so close to Kansas, everything above 40 Meters passes right over Kansas going north and over Oklahoma going south. So, all my contacts were on 40 Meters. Conditions were marginal so catching the mobile stations on 40 Meters, was difficult. Fixed stations came through with strong signals. Still, it was a lot of fun and quite the learning experience. My scores are posted to 3830scores.com.

Clean-Up Continues. Speaking of scores, Mother Nature almost won a knock-out round on Monday, August 17th. That morning a powerful microburst flattened fences, flipped hundreds of trees, and distributed debris starting at our QTH and headed

eastward. The golf course behind us had over \$1.5 million in damages. We were on generator power for over 18 hours. Others went a week without power. Most of the cleanup is finally done, but what were once tree-lined fairways is now just an open field. The house, shop and tower made it through unharmed, but the antenna was turned on the mast about 45 degrees.

FT-5D Fix. The Yaesu FT-3D is the best System Fusion hand-held radio in the series. The 5D model added extra programming capability, but the system is buggy and prone to quirks. I was about to toss it but found out there was a firmware update available. Once installed, all my problems were corrected except the ability to perform a direct entry of a frequency on the display. I will need to see if this is a physical problem rather than a remaining software glitch. Send me a note if you, too, are experiencing like problems with your FT-5D.



PKARC Web Site. About a month ago, the club web site experienced the vagaries of malicious individuals who corrupted the site and laid waste to hundreds of hours of work. The back-up was too old to resurrect the site. So, it being re-built from scratch. There is a long way to go to get the site back to its former glory. Have patience while volunteers gather the materials and put everything back online. This time, however, there will be better safeguards to reduce vulnerabilities and a better back-up process. Send other improvement recommendations to webmaster@pkarc.org.

73 de Rick, NJØP

Up Coming Events You Should Have on Your Calendar

Ham Radio [Work All Stations](#) 250 celebration (all year long)

5-13 September [Route 66](#)

11-12 September Queen Wilhemina Hamfest

12 – 14 September [September VHF](#)

19 Sep . Preparedness Fair, looking for two volunteers per shift; 9 to noon and a noon to 3. Here is the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4AA9AC29AAFF2-64894442-september>

19 September Harvey House

03 October Annual ARES SET Exercise

ARRL [Contest](#)

Additional Contest links: [WA7BNM](#) and [Contesting.com](#).

Local area public service events [calendar](#) from Larrys List

Training links

[EMCOMM-Training.org](#)

FEMA [NIMS](#) training

[ARRL](#) Training

ARRL [On The Air Live](#)

Photos

None submitted for