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John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, Editor | July 17, 2025

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## FlexRadio Equips ARRL with FLEX-8000 Series Station for W1AW

There is a new addition to Studio 1 at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut: a complete station of the latest gear from [FlexRadio](#), including a FLEX-8600™ Signature Series SDR transceiver, a Maestro C Control Console, Power Genius XL (PGXL) amplifier, and Radiosport RS60CF headset. The equipment is the latest addition to W1AW, which hosts a complement of equipment in

each of three operating studios under rotating agreements with major amateur radio manufacturers.



Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, (left, front) looks on as Steve Hicks, N5AC (right, front) demonstrates features of the FLEX-8600 to ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR (left, rear) and ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA (right, rear).

During his visit to present the station to ARRL on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, FlexRadio Chief Technology Officer Stephen Hicks, N5AC, described the station as an addition for the benefit of ARRL members and all visitors to W1AW. ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and CEO David Minster, NA2AA, were on hand to receive the equipment on behalf of ARRL.

“The FLEX-8600 provides all of the latest features that we have,” said Hicks. “And with all the Flex radios, they are continuously upgradable, so we have software releases on an ongoing basis and add features and functionality to it. ... ARRL members and W1AW visitors can come in here and try this equipment out and get used to it.”



The FLEX-8600 being used by a visiting operator to W1AW.

ARRL Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, expressed gratitude for the collaboration with FlexRadio, saying “We’re grateful to have W1AW equipped with a full FlexRadio station, allowing members and visitors to operate and enjoy this current-generation technology when they come to experience the latest in amateur radio innovation.” Inderbitzen explained that ARRL’s partnership with FlexRadio and its ongoing arrangement with manufacturers highlights a shared commitment with the industry to advance amateur radio by offering a hands-on experience to W1AW visitors.

Hicks and his FlexRadio colleague, Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, also provided a highly informative presentation to ARRL staff on the forthcoming [FlexRadio Aurora™](#) series of 500-watt SDR transceivers. Their talk highlighted the radio’s innovative use of polar modulation to address intermodulation distortion — a common challenge in linear amplification methods — while also reducing power consumption and heat generation. The technology has made it possible to reduce the weight and footprint of a high-power HF station into a lightweight radio that can easily travel as an airline carry-on.

### **Take Part in HamSCI’s Meteor Scatter QSO Party**

The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) is preparing for a series of upcoming meteor scatter (MS) experiments. Operating will take place during two well-known meteor showers: Perseids, August 11 - 12, 0000 to 2400 UTC, and Geminids, on December 12 – 13.



# HamSCI

This is a combination “special event and contest” to generate contact data during meteor scatter events using the 6- and 10-meter bands. Ten meters has been used infrequently for meteor scatter study due to past symbol rate limits. However, with recent changes in Federal Communications Commission rules, WSJT-X/MSK144 protocols may now be used on HF bands.

Data will be collected from both bands during the scheduled times in August and December, and will be analyzed offline, using both PSK Reporter raw data and operator contact logs from WSJT-X. User data, including both logged contact and received reports, are necessary for valid experimental analysis. The latter can be provided by any receive system reporting on MSK144 through PSK Reporter.

Operators are needed now to be active (i.e., CQ-) on MSK144; or passive, if possible, reporting via PSK Reporter as “monitors.” The best times are early morning hours prior to 10 meters opening to F2 propagation. Meteor scatter propagation occurs well below F2 and is supported in or near the E layer where the meteor ionization tracks occur.

Saturday mornings are being used regularly to announce and coordinate 10-meter contacts using [Ping Jockey Central](#). Announcements are also made on the Front Range Six Meter [groups.io](#) due to the substantial number of meteor scatter operators in that group.

To be successful, both active and passive operators are needed. The upcoming August meteor shower is an excellent time to set up your equipment and join with other operators preparing for the events. At a later date, the HamSCI team will be collecting operator contact information.

Contest rules can be found at [www.hamsci.org/msqp](http://www.hamsci.org/msqp) and a description of the HamSCI Meteor Shower QSO Party - 2025 at [hamsci.org/msqp-poster](http://hamsci.org/msqp-poster).

HamSCI serves as a means for fostering collaboration between professional researchers and amateur radio operators. For more information about HamSCI and to join the mailing list, visit [www.hamsci.org](http://www.hamsci.org).



## Safety Stand-Down: Look Up and Live

*By Sierra Harrop, W5DX*

*ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager*

Electricity is a killer. About 150 people die each year at work from contact with electricity, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Half of those are from contact with power lines. That data is just workplace deaths, so recreational and public service volunteering aren't even accounted for.

In a recent article, ARRL New Mexico Section Manager Bill Mader, K8TE, [shared safety concerns and processes that can be implemented](#) at ARRL Field Day sites. I'd like to share a simple phrase that may enhance your situational awareness: **Look up and live.**

"Look up and live" was drilled into me and every other television news employee who worked with electronic news gathering vehicles that had a pneumatic mast or satellite dish. It was the title of [an industry-standard safety video published by the National Press Photographers Association](#).

In TV news, where I spent the first two decades of my professional career, there was always a deadline and often a tremendous sense of urgency at the scene of breaking news to get a live shot up first. Before the days of bonded cellular internet streaming, we used radio – microwave and satellite – to take viewers to the scene.

No matter the pressure from news managers, safety was paramount. When we approached a scene, we made sure to park the live truck at least 10 feet away from



In this 2011 photo, photojournalist Colleen Welcher prepares the camera for the author to go live from a breaking news scene in Wichita Falls, Texas. Notice the van parked on the lawn of a church to keep the mast away from power lines which are just out of frame.

[Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo]

overhead wires to comply with regulations. My personal minimum was two truck-lengths from any lines, ideally a whole mast-length. If I had a 58-foot mast, I'd try to park at least 58 feet away from the nearest power line.

Identifying overhead lines was ritualistic: As I arrived, I got out of the vehicle, walked 20 feet away, looked up and walked around the entire perimeter of the truck while deliberately searching for overhead lines and obstructions. This additional 45-second process could feel like an eternity when news was unfolding dramatically for me to capture and report – but I couldn't go live if I was dead.

In pursuit of our amateur radio hobby, we should apply even more diligence. There's no pressure to get on for a ham radio activation. Take your time, walk around, be diligent. Look up and live.

Portable masts, vertical antennas, wire antennas slung up into a tree – anything you put up can become energized if it contacts an overhead wire. Do not take chances. Even what appears to be a phone or fiber line could be carrying lethal voltages. Do not become the path to ground.

One additional tip that I hope never applies to a radio amateur: Should a vehicle you're in become energized by a fallen line or a mast erected into power lines, do not leave it unless it is on fire. Call for help via phone or ham radio. Yell at any bystanders to not approach your vehicle. Electricity spreads out from a path to ground in concentric rings of decreasing voltage. Being in contact with different voltages is what will kill you. If a fire requires you to exit, carefully jump clear of the vehicle so as to not contact the vehicle and ground simultaneously. Be mindful of your movements: "Bunny hop" with your feet together or shuffle your feet on the ground in small increments without lifting either of them. Do not provide a path between the different potentials by walking normally or by falling and catching yourself with your hands.

Please be careful when erecting portable gear within the wires environment. Remember: Look up and live.



## Changes in the ARRL Pacific Division



Dr. Carol Milazzo, MD, KP4MD, of Citrus Heights, California, has been appointed Vice Director of the ARRL Pacific Division, effective July 9, 2025. She replaces John Litz, NZ6Q, who acceded to the position of Director in May. She will serve the remainder of a three-year term ending December 31, 2025.

Since 2015, Dr. Milazzo has served as Section Manager of the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section. She is a Volunteer Examiner and an ARRL Life Member.

The ARRL Pacific Division is comprised of the ARRL Sections of East Bay, Sacramento Valley, San Francisco, San Joaquin Valley, Santa Clara Valley, Nevada, and Pacific.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Elections are held for five of the 15 ARRL Divisions each year, for terms of 3 years.

## Changes in the ARRL Atlantic Division

Martin “Marty” Newingham, AG3I, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, has been appointed Vice Director of the ARRL Atlantic Division, effective July 15, 2025. Newingham will serve the remainder of a term that expires December 31, 2026.

He replaces Martin J. “Marty” Pittinger, KB3MXM, who resigned from the position in April.

Newingham is an ARRL Life Member and a Gold level contributor to the ARRL Diamond Club.



The ARRL Atlantic Division is comprised of the ARRL Sections of Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland-DC, Northern New York, Southern New Jersey, Western New York and Western Pennsylvania.

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors. Elections are held for five of the 15 ARRL Divisions each year, for terms of 3 years.

## Changes in the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section

Jay Ballinger, N6SAC, of Antelope, California, has been appointed Section Manager of the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section, effective July 16, 2025. He



will serve the remainder of a term that expires on September 30, 2027.

He replaces Dr. Carol Milazzo, MD, KP4MD, who was appointed as Pacific Division Vice Director. Dr. Milazzo has served as Section Manager since 2015.

The ARRL Field Organization is the grassroots corps that makes up the 60,000 volunteers among ARRL membership. It is divided into 71 sections, each of which is led by a volunteer Section Manager who is nominated and voted on by the members of the section. Section Managers serve two-year terms.



## Amateur Radio in the News

[“Southern Utah ham radio operators renew friendships, race to make contacts”](#) / St. George News (Utah) July 5, 2025 -- *The Dixie Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

[“At this Ohio ham radio competition, every connection makes a difference”](#) / WKYC TV (Ohio) July 12, 2025 -- *The Black River Ops Radio Club.*

[“Local radio club celebrates 80th anniversary”](#) / WJET/WXP (Pennsylvania) July 12, 2025 -- *The Radio Association of Erie is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*

[“Ham it up: Queen Anne’s Amateur Radio Club has a 'Field Day'”](#) / The Bay Times/ Record Observer (Maryland) July 15, 2025 -- *The Queen Anne’s Amateur Radio Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club.*





## ARRL Live Events and Podcasts



### ***On the Air LIVE***

Join Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, to learn about operating in the field. You'll learn about everything you need to take your operating out of the shack including antennas, power, and radios. Whether you are interested in POTA, SOTA, or just operating in the outdoors, this is the session for you!

Registration is open now! [learn.arrl.org/webinars/83549](https://learn.arrl.org/webinars/83549)

### **Up Next:**



Date: July 22, 2025



Time: 8 PM Eastern / 5 PM Pacific



[Register Now](#)

*The ARRL Education and Learning Department would like to apologize for the limitation of the registration system for May's edition of On The Air Live. It hit a limit at 500 registrants. We've upgraded the system to allow for this rapid success and growth in participation. The recording of the May session is available in the [ARRL Learning Center](#).*



### ***On the Air***

*Sponsored by Icom*

### **Your Ham Radio Everyday Carry**

Everybody's talking about everyday carry, or EDC, the trendy name for the collection of necessities you tote around with you every day, whether it's in a pocket or a bag. ARRL

Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, joins the podcast to talk about easy ways to make radio part of your everyday carry. [Listen Now](#)



## ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features. The ARRL Audio News is now broadcast on FM low power radio stations KQRZ-LP 100.7 and 96.7 MHz FM in Spokane, Washington every Saturday and Sunday morning at 8:00 AM PDT.

The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are available on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts.

[On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#)

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## In Brief...

A different kind of amateur radio contest will be in operation on July 19, 2025. The Vlaamse Radio Amateurs (VRA) is organizing the Flemish Mill Contest. The goal is to activate Flemish wind, water, rose, and horse mills to highlight Flemish heritage. There is

a specific [website](#), in several languages, where you can register, find the contest rules, and the map of mills. Select [Contest Cluster](#) for all information.



An example of the type of windmill that will be in operation for the Flemish Mill Contest.

The [Vaca Valley Radio Club, W6VVR](#), will activate special event station **W6P** from Alcatraz Island on **August 2, 2025, from 0130Z-0830Z**. There will be 3 stations operating from Alcatraz on 7.200, 14.250, and 28.500 MHz. All stations will be on SSB using battery. If you have any questions or live in the area and would like to be part of the operating team, please contact [w6vvr@arrl.net](mailto:w6vvr@arrl.net).



## Announcements

**The numbers for 2025 ARRL Field Day are impressive!** ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, shared the latest update:

### Entries by Class

- Class A...777
- Class B...595
- Class C...38
- Class D...1,462
- Class E...576
- Class F...112



Total Entries: 3,560

GOTA (Get On The Air) Stations active: 268

### QSOs by Mode

Total CW QSOs: 344,800

Total Digital QSOs: 211,840

Total Phone QSOs: 304,757

Total QSOs: 861,397

The deadline for entries is July 29. Read more at [2025 ARRL Field Day](#).

### Open Positions at ARRL

Come join the headquarters staff of ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®!

We are currently seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

**Membership Manager**

**Advertising Sales Manager**

**Administrative Coordinator**

**Technical Editor**

Full details may be found on the ARRL HR web page at [www.arrl.org/employment-opportunities](http://www.arrl.org/employment-opportunities)

ARRL is an equal opportunity employer.



### The ARRL Solar Report

#### ARRL Solar Report for July 17, 2025

Solar activity has been at low levels this past week. The largest flare of the period was July 16 from Region 4143.

Continued influence from the coronal hole (CH) high speed stream (HSS) will maintain higher-than-





This image was taken on July 17, 2025.  
[Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]

normal electron flux at geostationary orbit through July 18. The greater than 2 MeV flux will be moderate to high, especially during the diurnal maxima (pressure oscillation) during this time.

Solar wind parameters continued to be enhanced under positive polarity CH HSS influence. This is expected to continue through July 19.

The 10.7-centimeter flux: July 17, 125; July 18, 128; July 19, 122; July 20, 118; July 21, 120; July 22, 125; July 23, 125; July 24, 128. No radio blackouts were observed over the past 24 hours.

Predicted Sunspot Numbers: July 17, 135; July 18, 136; July 19, 134; July 20, 120; July 21, 154; July 22, 137; July 23, 140.

For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, read [A Quick Guide to HF Propagation Using Solar Indices](#), and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelshwab, K9LA.

For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio website](#).

## Just Ahead in Radiosport

- July 19 -- YOTA Contest (CW, phone)
- July 19 -- Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge (CW, phone, digital)
- July 19 - 20 -- LABRE DX Contest (CW, phone)
- July 19 - 20 -- CQ Worldwide VHF Digital Contest (digital)
- July 19 - 20 -- North American QSO Party, RTTY (digital)
- July 20 -- RSGB International Low Power Contest (CW)
- July 21 -- K1USN Slow Speed Test (CW)
- July 23 -- A1Club AWT (CW)
- July 24 -- RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data (digital)
- July 26 - 27 -- RSGB IOTA Contest (CW, phone)
- July 26 - 27 -- Alabama QSO Party (CW, phone)
- July 27 -- ARS Flight of the Bumblebees (CW)
- July 28 -- RSGB FT4 Contest (digital)
- July 29 -- ICWC Medium Speed Test (CW)

Remember to visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information.

## Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- July 26 | [ARRL West Virginia State Convention and Ham Fest](#), Sutton, West Virginia
- August 2 | [ARRL Maine State Convention and Hamfest](#), Augusta, Maine
- August 3 | [SVARC Berryville Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Roanoke Division Convention, Berryville, Virginia
- August 9 | [ARRL Idaho State Convention](#), Post Falls, Idaho
- August 16 – 17 | [Huntsville Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Alabama State Convention, Huntsville, Alabama
- August 21-24 | [Northeast HamXposition](#), hosting the ARRL New England Division Convention, Marlborough, Massachusetts
- August 30 - September 1 | [Shelby Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL North Carolina Section Convention, Shelby, North Carolina
- September 7 | [Southern New Jersey Conference and HamFest](#), hosting the ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Convention, Mullica Hill, New Jersey.
- September 12 - 13 | [Slidell EOC Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Louisiana State Convention, Slidell, Louisiana
- September 19-21 | [Duke City Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL New Mexico State Convention, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- September 20-21 | [Midwest Superfest](#), ARRL Central Division Convention, hosting the ARRL Central Division Convention, Chillicothe, Illinois

Remember to search the [ARRL Hamfest and Convention](#) Database to find events in your area.

### Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for *The ARRL Letter* and ARRL News can be sent to [news@arrl.org](mailto:news@arrl.org). -- John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, [ARRL News Editor](#)



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[Join ARRL or renew today!](#) No other organization works harder to promote and protect amateur radio. Membership supports benefits, services, programs, and advocacy to help you get (and stay) active and on the air. Membership includes access to digital editions of all four ARRL [magazines](#): *QST*, *On the Air*, *QEX*, and *NCJ*.

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.

The *ARRL Letter* is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the [Blind-hams Groups.io](#) email group. The group is dedicated to discussions about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.

*NCJ -- National Contest Journal*. Published bimonthly, features articles by top testers, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprints, and QSO parties.

*QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters*. Published bimonthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns, and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

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[Subscribe](#) to the *ARES Letter* (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the *ARRL Contest Update* (biweekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts, and much more!

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The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 51 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their profile at [www.arrl.org/opt-in-out](http://www.arrl.org/opt-in-out).

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