

2025 Year End Report Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee (EC & FSC)

As the EC FSC progresses, our committee remains committed to improving Emergency Communications and Field Services for our members. Our objective is to develop a more responsive, efficient, and collaborative setting that fortifies our Field Organization while involving the wider amateur radio community.

The new ARES training modules have been refined and promoted. The goal is to ensure volunteers are well-trained, proficient, and ready to serve when necessary. This includes emphasizing standard operating procedures, interoperability with served agencies, and proficiency in various digital and voice modes. Additionally, the aim is to equip local ARES groups with the tools and knowledge needed to succeed, particularly in challenging conditions.

Another portion of our work thus far has focused on our NTS and message handling systems. We now have a MOU with Radio Relay International (RRI). While RRI operates independently, it shares a common goal with NTS in providing reliable message relay capabilities. RRI inclusion has benefitted NTS greatly in improvement of methods and networks that complement NTS, especially for long-haul or specialized traffic. The goal is to create an ecosystem where amateur radio operators have diverse options for message handling, ensuring redundancy and adaptability. By coordinating with reliable traffic systems, we aim to enhance national readiness.

Our efforts to improve the field organization have also included attention to our Affiliated Clubs. Local clubs play a significant role in the amateur radio community by providing training, facilitating social connections, and participating in public service activities. We are actively seeking innovative ways to enhance our support for Affiliated Clubs, which includes the development of new resources tailored to their needs. This commitment reflects our understanding of the important role these clubs play in promoting amateur radio at the grassroots level.

By strengthening our support for local clubs, we aim to empower them to thrive and better serve their communities. Our ongoing efforts will ensure that these organizations continue to be vibrant and effective contributors to the amateur radio landscape.

Projects for 2025:

ARES

- A complete rewrite of the ARES Training program has been undertaken with the Basic, Intermediate courses already implemented along with their respective Task Books. The Advanced and Leadership Courses are still a work in progress.
- A new ARES Banner has been introduced along with several new ARES brochures.
- An update to the ARES Plan has been completed.

- The July issue of QST marked the 90th anniversary of ARES. There is ongoing advertising support for ARES in nearly all editions of QST.
- Starting with the January 2026 issue of QST and going through the entire year will be a number of articles written by Bob Famiglio K3RF, Director, Atlantic Division and Scott Yonally, N8SY, Great Lakes Director as well as some other writers writing about the future of ARES and where it might be in 5 to 10 years from now.
- Forms 2 and 4 have been fully implemented, enabling our ECs, DECs, and SECs to complete their monthly reporting duties efficiently. Consistent improvement in reporting is now anticipated from all 71 sections.
- Quarterly meetings with the SECs by our Emergency Management Director has been underway and on a regular routine.
- The Net Directory is now operational. You can search for a net as well as modify one. Updates to the director now make it even more robust and easier for the members to use.
- ARES Group Registration is a work in progress. A mapping program was added so the user can quickly and easily find where an ARES group meets.

NTS:

- Re-instituted Area Staffs.
- MOU with RRI signed and NTS program is now underway with RRI.
- Continued refinement and improvements are being made to NTS 2.0's Radiogram Portal project (nts2.arrl.org/radiogram) as it continues to evolve with enhancements and added functionality on the website.
- Continued growth in the NTS Newsletter is a reflection of how much interest there still is in handling traffic. It now has over 3,200 people viewing it every month.
- A new NTS Recognition Certificate that can be utilized by most of the Net Managers or Section Managers for special recognition within the NTS has been implemented.
- A new training project is available. This project is being conducted on Zoom for those who cannot use HF. Since it is not being conducted on R.F., it can include participants who are unlicensed, hold a Technician Class license, or are only licensed for GMRS to assist with their training.
- A new virtual traffic network has been initiated. This initiative aims to encourage Technician Class operators to engage in traffic handling, taking into account their limitations on HF frequency operations.
- To keep things interesting for our Traffic Handlers a "Treasure Hunt" was created and has been a huge success among the Traffic Handlers.

Clubs

- Club Primer has been rewritten and published to the website
- Official Rules and Regulations Concerning ARRL Hamfests, Conventions and Trunkfests has been rewritten and published to the website
- The ARRL Convention and Hamfest Primer was created and published to the website
- Rules and Regulations Concerning Affiliated Groups was updated and published to the website
- Rules and Regulations of the ARRL Field Organization was updated and published to the website
- Created a “Club Health Checkup” card that is a free handout for hamfests and club meetings.
- Creation of “Club Spotlight” for On The Air Magazine. It will feature a club and new club member who will write a short story about their experience coming into the club.
- Creation of a Program for Recognition of Clubs. This program represents more than an award; it constitutes a strategic investment in the future. By recognizing affiliated clubs that display an outstanding dedication to ARRL membership, the initiative aims to set new benchmarks for excellence throughout the amateur radio community. As part of the “Year of Clubs” initiative for 2026, clubs achieving greater than 70% but less than 90% membership may apply for special recognition and will receive a digital badge. This badge can be utilized on their correspondence, social media pages as well as their website to showcase their accomplishments. Clubs will be prominently featured across all ARRL digital news platforms and newsletters, ensuring extensive visibility within the community. Clubs achieving an ARRL membership level of 90% or higher will receive a special digital badge recognizing this exceptional achievement.
- Established 2026 as the “Year of Clubs” and it is underway.
- Club Affiliation Application Form has been updated and published to the website
- Club mapping program was created and published to the website.
- Created Amateur Radio Activity Report and published to the website – this will allow clubs and groups other than ARES to submit what they are or have done including the number of hours volunteered. Some of the information gathered by the form will be used as a “Best Practice” example for other clubs to learn and grow by.
- Application Dashboard has been developed and implemented. This allows ARRL Staff to track when clubs have applied for Affiliation or Special Service recognition and the stage at which the application is in-process at.
- Online ARRL Membership Verification for Clubs has been developed and implemented on the website. This feature enables clubs to independently verify the proportion of ARRL members within their organization in a secure manner. To ensure member privacy, the system will

generate a report that displays only the aggregate percentage of ARRL membership based on submitted data. This functionality allows clubs to confirm compliance with the requirement to maintain at least 51% ARRL membership while safeguarding individual member privacy.

On November 19th Field Services Manager, Mike Walters unexpectedly resigned and is no longer employed by the ARRL.

On November 20th in consultation with President Roderick, Director Ryan (A&F), and Director Yonally (ECFSC), we have agreed to combine the EmComm and Field Services management positions. This is going 'back to the future' and will right size the scope with one position.

Josh Johnston will be the Emergency Communications & Field Services Director with immediate effect.

The EC FSC has been exceptionally active during 2025. I am very proud of the collaborative efforts and dedication demonstrated by all of our committee members, HQ staff, and numerous field volunteers.

**For the Committee:
Chairman**

Scott Yonally, N8SY
Director, Great Lakes Division

David Propper, K2DP
Vice Director, Midwest Division

Members:

Lee H. Cooper W5LHC
Vice Director, West Gulf Division

John Robert Stratton N5AUS
Director, West Gulf Division

Bob Famiglio K3RF
Director, Atlantic Division

Phil Temples, N9HI
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David Galletly, KM2O
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Mark Tharp KB7HDX
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Ed Hudgens WB4RHQ
Vice Director, Delta Division

ARRL Headquarters Liaisons:

John Litz, NZ6Q
Director, Pacific Division

Josh Johnson KE5MHV
Emergency Communications & Field Services
Director