



Radio Active Times, Issue 1, May 2025

The official newsletter of the Handiham Radio Club. Issue 1, May 2025.

Welcome from the Editor

Greetings and welcome to the first issue of the Radio Active Times. The Handiham Radio Club is unique in that we have members from around the world. This worldwide membership is a double-edged sword. On one side, we gain insight into worldwide perspectives on ham radio and disability. On the other side, we face a huge challenge, in that it is quite difficult for our members to get together at the same time. My goal with the Radio Active Times is to give all our members the opportunity to share with and learn from each other in a way that transcends time zones.

This newsletter is not meant to be my newsletter, nor the club officers' newsletter, nor the club board's newsletter. The Radio Active Times is meant to be the club's newsletter. To that end, each member has an insight that only they can share with the club. I am so honored to have the privilege to compile and edit all these unique insights into the Radio Active Times. Thank you to all the members who have contributed to this issue. I hope that over the next several months all members will share their ham radio expertise with the club through this newsletter, allowing us all to become Radio Active.

Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY, Editor in Chief

Greetings from the President

Greetings and salutations to the Handiham Radio Club from our Radio Active Times office, in our first official publication of the Radio Active Times.

The HRC will continue to make efforts that keep us club members connected and growing. We have so many club members who haven't had a voice, nor ways to connect with our members. This is our new shiny vehicle that is sure to do that. You will learn about club members, club events and happenings, as well as any other club-generated excitement.

Let me take a second to brag on our Radio Active Times staff. You will find the Times a pithy and informative source packed with humor and club news. The writers and editor of the Times are focused on ensuring that you will find a bright spot in your day when you read it. Our Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY, has a delightful radio personality, as well as a talent for writing and editing. Since I have met Mélanie, she has been continually growing and learning new things in radio, and playing a big part in adding excitement to our club.

As you enjoy the Radio Active Times, don't forget to give us input, as well as ideas and suggestions to enable us to serve you better. Enjoy the Times, and I will be communicating with you soon.

Radio Actively yours,
Jerry Maccoux, W0UH, HRC President

Contributions Wanted

If you have something related to ham radio or technology that you want to share with the club, please submit it to our Editor in Chief, Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY. There is no deadline for submissions, and the submission guidelines are quite flexible.

Handiham Daily Nets

Check-ins to the Handiham Daily Nets for April 2025

Net	Check-ins	Average per net
Monday	71	17.75
Tuesday	99	19.8
Wednesday	106	26.5
Wednesday night	104	26
Thursday	79	19.75
Friday	85	21.25
Monthly total	544	20.92 daily average

Miss Linda, N7HVF, has reclaimed the title of Queen of the Net. She hit her third weekly total above 22. Linda and Peter have been dealing with jammers during their Wednesday evening net. Even fighting practically weekly jamming, they have been slamming home some eye-popping numbers.

Peter, KD9VTU, kicks off the month of May with a new net special. You might want to check in every Thursday to see what Peter is up to.

Be sure to drop in at 11:00 AM Central time, Monday through Friday:

- EchoLink: HANDIHAM conference server, node 494492
- DMR: talkgroup TGIF, TG 3141
- AllStar: node 473670

Resource Spotlight: I Can Work This Thing

Website: icanworkthisthing.com

A majority of the ham equipment on the market is not fully accessible to the blind and visually impaired. Despite this, many blind hams have learned to use this equipment. They have made notes and written manuals, cheat sheets and quick guides to help themselves. The I Can Work This Thing website is a collection of these notes, manuals, cheat sheets and quick guides. On this screen-reader-friendly website, you can filter down to find the information you need to work your equipment. In addition to ham radio equipment, the website also has operating information for radio scanners, cell phones and digital recorders. As the website says, "If we pool our information, not only can you work that thing, but we can all work that thing."

License Upgrades

The following members have upgraded their tickets:

- Matt Roberts, N9GMR, Extra
- Kat Hanks, KF0UDS, Technician
- Ahmat Djouma, KE2FUZ, Technician

Congratulations to our members who have upgraded!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 2025

- **May 19–25**, 0000–0000 UTC: National Emergency Medical Services Week. K4WTL, W. T. Lofton High School Amateur Radio Club, Gainesville, Florida. Frequency: 14.325 MHz.
- **May 24**, 1500–2000 UTC: Living History Cruise of the SS John W. Brown, WWII Liberty cargo ship. K8JWB, Project Liberty Ship, Baltimore, Maryland. Frequencies: 7.210, 14.230, 21.300, 28.320 MHz.

- **May 28–31**, 1000–2000 UTC: Scott Joplin International Ragtime Festival special event. W0R, Sedalia-Pettis Amateur Radio Club, Sedalia, Missouri. Frequencies: 28.4, 14.250 MHz.
- **May 30 – June 6**, 0100–2301 UTC: Portland Rose Festival. W7R, Portland Amateur Radio Club, Portland, Oregon. Frequency: 14.290 MHz.
- **May 31**, 1400–2000 UTC: Audie Murphy, most decorated WWII soldier, memorial special event. W2A, New River Valley Amateur Radio Club, Christiansburg, Virginia. Frequency: 14.275 MHz.

June 2025

- **June 1**, 3:00 PM Central time: Handiham Radio Club Zoom meeting.
- **June 1**: Deadline to submit logs from the Handiham 58 operating event.
- **June 1–14**, 1300–2200 UTC: D-Day Commemoration special event. W2W, Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum, Hunt Valley, Maryland. Frequencies: 14.244, 14.044, 7.244, 7.044, 3.544, 3.844 MHz.
- **June 2–16**, 0000–2359 UTC: Commemorating the crash of B-24 Liberator #41-29157. TM44LIB, Collective of Sundgau Radio Amateurs, France. Frequencies: 14.074, 14.040, 14.130, 18.100 MHz.
- **June 5–8**, 0000–2359 UTC: 25th Annual Feast of Saint Anthony Festival. NJ2KC, New Jersey Knights of Columbus Amateur Radio Club, Bridgeton, New Jersey. Frequencies: 7.185, 14.25, 21.35, 28.45 MHz.
- **June 6**, 1100–1900 UTC: D-Day commemoration special event. W2B, New River Valley Amateur Radio Club, Bedford, Virginia. Frequency: 14.275 MHz.
- **June 6–7**, 0000–0000 UTC: Hank Williams Celebration. W4H, Jim Bell Wireless Association, Georgiana, Alabama. Frequencies:

28.400, 14.300, 7.225, 3.390 MHz.

- **June 7–8:** Museum Ships Weekend. Participating stations include:
 - NI6IW, USS Midway Museum Ship, San Diego, California, 1600–2300 UTC. Frequencies: 14.320, 7.250, 14.070 MHz.
 - W4JDD, Orleck Amateur Radio Society, Jacksonville, Florida (Ships on the Air), 0359–2359 UTC. Frequencies: 7.225, 14.250 MHz.
 - W4AVM, American Victory Museum Ship, Tampa, Florida, 0000–2300 UTC. Frequencies: 14.320, 7.268 MHz.
 - NJ2BB, Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station, Camden, New Jersey, 0001–2359 UTC. Frequencies: 7.044, 7.272, 14.044, 14.262 MHz.
 - K3SAV, Nuclear Ship Savannah Amateur Radio Club, Port of Baltimore, Maryland, 1330–2100 UTC. Bands: 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters (7, 14, 18, 21, 28 MHz).
 - N1S, Submarine Force Library and Museum, Groton, Connecticut, 0000–2359 UTC. Frequencies: 3.850, 7.225, 14.275, 21.350 MHz.
 - K8E, Toledo Mobile Radio Association, National Museum of the Great Lakes, Toledo, Ohio, 1400–1830 UTC. Frequencies: 7.039, 7.260, 14.239, 14.260 MHz.
 - NB9QV, USS Cobia Amateur Radio Club, Manitowoc, Wisconsin, 1400–2000 UTC. Frequencies: 7.240, 14.240 MHz.
- **June 14,** 1830–2030 UTC: Appleton Flag Day Parade. W9ZL, Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, Appleton, Wisconsin. Frequency: 14.246 MHz.
- **June 14–29,** 0000–2359 UTC: Celebrating the 100th birthday of Audie Murphy, most decorated WWII soldier. W5M, Sabine Valley ARA, Greenville, Texas. Frequencies: 7.270, 14.270, 21.300, 28.350 MHz.
- **June 21–22,** 1504–1504 UTC: 152nd Birthday of Indian Prairie School. KF0MSJ, Zerobeaters Amateur Radio Club, Washington,

Missouri. Frequency: 14.330 MHz.

- **June 21–22**, 2300–2000 UTC: Remembering Private Chester Bird. K0CBP, American Legion Amateur Radio Club Post 523, Golden Valley, Minnesota. Frequencies: 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360 MHz.
- **June 22 – July 7**, 2200–0700 UTC: Festival International de Jazz de Montréal. VE2JAZZ, Saint-Jérôme home station, Saint-Jérôme, Quebec, Canada. Frequency: 14.030 MHz.
- **June 28–29**: ARRL Field Day.
- **June 29 – July 3**, 1300–0500 UTC: Boy Scouts of America, Michigan Crossroads Council, Trail to Eagle. K2BSA/8, Garden City Amateur Radio Club, Metamora, Michigan. Frequencies: 14.330, 7.270, 3.840 MHz. Scouts earning the Radio merit badge will operate during the week as time allows.

Article 1: History of the Courage Kenny Handiham Program

The Courage Kenny Handiham Program was "born" in Rochester, Minnesota, in 1967, the idea of Ned Carman, W0ZSW. Ned worked for a clinic, and in the course of his work, he would visit people with severe physical disabilities. As he spoke with his clients, who often had few opportunities to leave their homes, he realized that amateur radio would be the perfect hobby for them. Here was a hobby that could open a window to the world! A person with the most severe disabilities could stand as an equal with fellow hams in the world of amateur radio!

Ned enlisted the help of a group of local nuns, the Sisters of St. Francis, on April 30, 1967. Although their first action was as weather watchers during a thunderstorm that passed through Rochester that day, the Sisters were committed to helping Ned with his new project, and several received their licenses. Among them was Sister Alverna

O'Laughlin, WA0SGJ, the former Educational Coordinator for the Handiham Program, now a Silent Key.

The first Handiham was Edna (Eddy) Thorson, N0YL, who took her General Class license exam in December 1967. Eddy became a Silent Key in 2013.

Very soon the Rochester Amateur Radio Club, and a little later the PICONET of Southeastern Minnesota, took up the torch of service that Ned had lit. Word of the Handiham Program spread rapidly throughout southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

By 1969 it was very evident that the expansion of Handiham services could not continue without some rather substantial financial support. This support came from the non-profit Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and Adults, whose name would later change to Courage Center. The Society granted full affiliate status to the fledgling program and helped with money and equipment.

Word of the Handiham Program spread throughout the Upper Midwest, then across the country, and around the world. It became impossible to continue the work of the program as a volunteer organization. Something had to be done, or the Handiham Program would be a victim of its own success. The answer emerged when Courage Center agreed to accept the Handiham Program as an integrated part of Courage Center, and in 1975 the Minnesota Handiham Program merged with Courage Center to become a full service, providing help wherever there was a need.

The Courage Kenny Handiham Program, now a fully integrated service of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, is able to call on the resources of its parent organization, from accounting and counseling to rehabilitation medicine and physical therapy, to better serve its students and members.

Radio Camp sessions, conferences and virtual classes serve members from everywhere in the United States and around the world. Members learn amateur radio, electronic theory and computing, but they also learn that they can accomplish what they set out to do!

Ned Carman has passed away, but the Courage Kenny Handiham Program's headquarters station bears his call sign, W0ZSW, and an organization of volunteers and paid staff carries on his good work of sharing amateur radio with people who have physical disabilities.

Originally published on the Handiham Program website. Believed to have been written by Sister Alverna O'Laughlin, WA0SGJ, with updates from various Handiham Program coordinators.

Member Spotlight: Michael Hutchings, KL3XL, Anchorage, Alaska

Michael was born with cerebral palsy, which requires him to use a wheelchair full time. Despite his limitations, he attended public school in Anchorage, albeit with accommodations. In 2002 Michael moved into a group home. A ham in the neighborhood suggested that Michael get his license. With the help of Handiham and this ham, Michael got his license in 2014, a month before the question pool changed. Like many new hams, Michael's first radio was a Baofeng. Due to his physical limitations, Michael used his radio sporadically to connect to his neighbor's IRLP node.

In 2019 and 2021 Michael moved to different group homes, each move increasing the distance from the local repeaters and IRLP nodes. During this time his radio collected dust. In 2023 he attended Radio Camp, where he made several new friends. With the help of his brother Nick, he was able to renew his license and update his address before it expired in 2024.

Michael works as a runner at an indoor water park, where he enjoys interacting with guests and staff. Several times a week he visits the local coffee shops for a flavored white chocolate iced mocha. His favorite flavors are peanut butter, banana, orange and toasted coconut. When the weather is nice, he enjoys taking a roll around his neighborhood. With the help and encouragement of his friends from Handiham, Michael recently set up EchoLink and made a few contacts. Michael is currently studying for his General license. In the future, Michael hopes to get more active on his radio. He is excited to see how new technologies will offer individuals with severe physical challenges like himself more access to ham radio.

Article 2: Handiham 58 Special Operating Event

Fifty-eight years ago, Ned Carman, W0ZSW, had the brilliant idea to use ham radio as a way to allow disabled individuals to travel around the world without having to leave their homes. This idea blossomed into the Courage Kenny Handiham Program. Each year we celebrate Ned's idea by holding a special operating event on the last full weekend in April.

This year, despite a double flare that occurred the day before the event started, several club members got on the air and shared the story of the Handiham Program. Linda Reeder, N7HVF, from Salt Lake City, Utah, made 3 contacts on 40 meters and 3 on 20 meters. She had the opportunity to ragchew with a gentleman from the San Francisco area who was quite interested in what the Handiham Program does. Darrell Horst, KM6KFW, of Woodland, California, worked against the poor band conditions to make 132 contacts, a personal best for him.

The poor band conditions were also felt across the pond. Christoph Bungard, DF9WM/KB3PRN, of Munich, Germany, was only able to make one HF contact as well as one EchoLink contact. Handiham club members are good, resourceful hams and used whatever bands and modes they could to make contacts. Mary Ferris, WD8JHU, made 3 HF

contacts but used the Michigan linked repeater system to make 14 contacts. Michael Hutchings, KL3XL, of Anchorage, Alaska, participating in the event for the first time, used EchoLink to make 2 contacts.

Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY, of Petersburg, Virginia, spent the event working her local repeaters and EchoLink. Rotating through 5 local repeaters, she shared about Handiham in the Richmond and Tri-Cities area until 9 PM Eastern time. She then started traveling her way across the country via EchoLink. By 2 AM Eastern time she was visiting fellow hams in Honolulu and Maui. In the end she made 61 contacts all across the United States.

The final number of participants and contacts will not be known until after June 1, when all the logs have been submitted. Several members were not able to participate due to prior commitments and misunderstandings of just how to participate in the event. In preparation for next year's special event, the club leadership has decided to offer Zoom calls where members can learn and practice how they will word their requests for contacts. The club leadership hopes that this will give all members the confidence to make next year's Handiham 59 a whirlwind adventure.

Interesting Contacts

Michael Hutchings, KL3XL

After finally getting EchoLink set up, I made my first contact outside Anchorage. Connecting into a repeater in Vermont, I worked Michael, AA1PR, who just happens to live about 60 miles from my uncle. Several times a week Michael and I have been connecting for a good old-fashioned ragchew.

Austin Seraphin, KA3TTT

Recently I worked two stations via the International Space Station for the first time. I live in Media, Pennsylvania, about 20 miles outside of Philadelphia. I worked one station in Rhode Island and another in Georgia. I used my Kenwood TH-D74 running 5 watts into an Arrow antenna. Both stations said I had a good signal. I really enjoyed it, and encourage others to try. Technicians can do it, since it uses 2 meters and 70 centimeters. I used heavens-above.com to get the times and coordinates.

Handiham Radio Club Board, May 2025

- President: Jerry Maccoux, W0UH
- Vice President: Tom Behler, KB8TYJ
- Secretary: Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY
- Treasurer and Handiham Program representative: Lucinda Moody, AB8WF
- Immediate Past President: Linda Reeder, N7HVF
- Technology Committee Chair: John Glass, NU6P
- Outreach Committee Chair: Peter Atkinson, KD9VTU
- First Member at Large: Darrell Horst, KM6KFW
- Second Member at Large: Christoph Bungard, DF9WM

To reach the club or any board member, please contact the Handiham Radio Club through the Handiham Program.

Published by the Handiham Radio Club. Read this and other issues online at <https://handiham.net/radio-active-times/>