



Radio Active Times, Issue 14, June 2026

The official newsletter of the Handiham Radio Club. Issue 14,
June 2026.

Greetings from the Editor

Well, today, June 21, is the first day of summer. It is officially time for cookouts, pool parties, beach trips, festivals, county fairs, and all the operating these summer activities can handle. While you all are hanging out on the bands, I will be spending the next few weeks in New Jersey getting my new guide dog.

I began the process of retiring my sweet Walnut back in March. In mid-May she stopped eating and lost a lot of weight, and after lab work a month ago today, we received the sad news that Walnut has end-stage liver cancer. After consulting with the vet, we decided the best plan was comfort care. The prognosis at the time was a couple of weeks, possibly a few months. Since the first of June, Walnut has been staying with a friend of mine who can better watch for the visual signs that it is time. This morning at church, my entire Sunday school class and I got a great surprise when my friend's son brought Walnut to class for a visit. I barely got any time to cuddle my sweet girl, as she made the rounds checking everyone for treats. Walnut is enjoying her new home. She is eating like a queen (the prednisone helps with that, of course) and has gained back some weight. Knowing she is being looked after by my friend, her son, their two dogs and eight cats, I can focus on getting the newest furry member of our Handiham Radio Club.

While I am out of the office, I hope you will all be checking in to our nets. This issue of the Radio Active Times is all about nets, so you have

no excuse not to!

Mélanie Carriveau, KN4ZSY, Editor in Chief

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.

Greetings from the President's Desk

I am so blessed to have such awesome radio club members. We couldn't have made the change in our AllStar communications without your friendly, vocal and moral support. I had to write a plethora of emails to clarify the radio club's intentions. Our club, our club net, and the nets of some of our club members will all gain a variety of benefits from our wider range of communication. This new AllStar development took several years of work to create reliable AllStar reception for the Handiham Radio Club net and other activities. Keep your suggestions coming.

Jerry Maccoux, W0UH, HRC President

Daily Nets: HRC Net Statistics for May

By Jerry Maccoux, W0UH, Net Manager

May was a bit busy, with the net manager out of the office May 1 through May 10. Thank you to Peter Atkinson, WX9IDX, assistant net manager, and all our net control stations, Larry Marcum, K7GND; Daryl Stout, N5VLZ; Sabra Ewing, AI7UG; Linda Reeder, N7HVF; Chip Johnson, N9KIW; John Glass, NU6P; and Peter, for keeping things running smoothly.

Editor's note: the weekly figures first published in this issue repeated April's numbers by mistake. The figures below are corrected from the HRC daily net logs.

In May we held 25 nets and saw 538 checked-in stations, an average of 21.52 per net.

Check-ins by week, May 2026

Week	Nets	Check-ins	Average per net
Friday, May 1	1	23	23
May 4–8	6	126	21
May 11–15	6	133	22.17
May 18–22	6	123	20.5
May 25–29	6	133	22.17
May total	25	538	21.52

For the first 5 months of the year, we have seen 2,868 checked-in stations, a monthly average of 573.6.

New ways to reach our nets

Be sure to drop in at 11:00 AM Central time, Monday through Friday, and at 7:00 PM Central time on Wednesday nights, for our nets:

- EchoLink: node 490506
- AllStar: node 2627
- DMR: talkgroup TGIF, TG 3141

Please note the change to our preferred EchoLink and AllStar node numbers. The EchoLink HANDIHAM conference server (node 494492) and AllStar node 473670 will still be active, but we will no longer mention them in our net preamble. For better reliability, please start using the new node numbers.

New Members

Wayne Scott has recently joined the club and is working on getting his ticket. Welcome to the club! Be sure to let us know when you get your ticket, so we can celebrate with you. The Handiham Radio Club now has 220 members.

Have you earned your ticket, upgraded, or gotten a new call sign? Have you moved, or changed your phone number or email address? If so, please let the Handiham Program staff know by emailing handiham@allina.com.

Thank you,
Lucinda Moody, AB8WF, Handiham Program Coordinator, and Melissa Brown, Handiham Program Administrator

Talking Ham: Ground Connection and Ground Rod

A **ground connection** is a connection to the earth for electrical safety. It can be made indoors to a metal cold-water pipe, or outdoors to a ground rod.

A **ground rod** is a copper or copper-clad steel rod driven into the earth that lets electrical energy return safely to the earth. A heavy copper wire from the ham shack connects all the station equipment to the ground rod.

Article 1: Improving AllStar Communications During the HRC Daily Net

By Jerry Maccoux, W0UH

I am writing to share some exciting news that will surely improve the reliability of communications for our Handiham Radio Club activities.

Several weeks ago we were offered an opportunity to improve our AllStar arrangement for the Handiham Radio Club net, and I felt it prudent to take it. During our HRC nets we have been experiencing AllStar dropouts and interference from local repeaters. We are limited in how much we can reduce local repeater interference, but we will succeed in eliminating AllStar outages.

Ken Varnell is fluent in using cloud servers and is one of the board members of AllStar. He offered to build an AllStar hub in the cloud for any specialized group that needed this service. I had tried to arrange something like this before, so I asked him for help for the Handiham Radio Club. He completed the needed procurement and technical work, and he was even able to snag a 4-digit AllStar node number, which, as you know, is at a premium. The Handiham Radio Club now has an AllStar hub called HRC_NET. Its node number is **2627**.

I have also set up an EchoLink node, **490506**, connected to our Handiham EchoLink conference server, which bridges all HRC activities to the AllStar node.

The new AllStar node will carry the Handiham Radio Club daily nets and will be used during radio club activities. Until now we have directed net participants to node 473670; that number will no longer be mentioned, and AllStar users will be encouraged to join the net on node 2627.

The hub is robust enough for our radio club activities: the EchoLink node holds 50 connections, and the AllStar node can carry nearly 100. The hub is being tested now to make sure it comes up before the net and goes down about 3 hours later. The Handiham conference server will be linked on weekdays from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM Central Daylight Time, and also on Wednesday evenings for the trivia net.

Payment has already been made for the new cloud server. Server space and administrator services have been covered by radio club members to ensure rapid deployment of our Handiham Radio Club AllStar node.

My intention is to move off the existing AllStar Raspberry Pi gradually and quietly, in a way that won't offend those who have supported us so far with undying commitment. If you have AllStar, I invite you to try the new node, 2627, during the 3-hour weekday window to make sure you can communicate seamlessly. You should notice no difference in sound quality or clarity. If you use the new EchoLink node, 490506, you will be connected during HRC nets just like the AllStar node, with the sound quality you are used to. If you stay connected to the AllStar and EchoLink nodes, the Handiham conference server will disconnect after the net ends. We envision this hub as a place for radio club members to hang out, with club-wide communication free from unnecessary repeater traffic.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions about the new EchoLink and AllStar nodes.

Sincerely, 73,
Jerry Maccoux, W0UH, HRC President

Extra, extra, read all about it!

Hot off the presses, here is another update to our ever-evolving AllStar and EchoLink changes. EchoLink node 490506 and the club's AllStar node are now available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our daily radio club nets are held at their usual times, and Chad Nelson's (WI9HF) net will be held on the club node on Thursday nights as well; other than that, our radio club node is free to use 24/7. Get on the hub and stay as long as you'd like. The new club EchoLink and AllStar node numbers are now on the Handiham.org website.

Monthly Contest Spotlight

By Tom Behler, KB8TYJ

I want to begin this spotlight by strongly encouraging you to take part in ARRL Field Day, held the last full weekend of June: this year,

Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28. You can take part with your local club, or use alternative power, alternative antennas and a battery-operated portable setup in your own backyard. Or you can operate from home on commercial power as a class 1D station and give other stations full credit for the contact. If you do Field Day from your home QTH, you can count your points toward your own score, or donate them to your local club if it accepts such donations.

There are always debates over whether Field Day is technically a contest, but it is certainly the ARRL's premier operating event of the year. However you do it, Field Day can be a lot of fun and a great learning experience if you want to be adventurous.

Besides Field Day, several other contests between late June and late July might interest you, so read on. Once again, this list is only a small sampling of the many contests happening, covering the ones I know best. I encourage you to visit the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) for the complete listing. If you have worked a contest that isn't listed here and want to tell us about it, get in touch with me, and I'll gladly include your thoughts in a future spotlight. I'm always interested in contest stories and operating tips.

- [**ARRL Field Day**](#): 1800 UTC June 27 to 2100 UTC June 28.
- [**RAC Canada Day Contest**](#): 0000–2359 UTC July 1.
- [**CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, SSB/CW**](#): 1400 UTC July 4 to 1400 UTC July 5.
- [**IARU HF World Championship**](#): 1200 UTC July 11 to 1200 UTC July 12.
- [**Alabama QSO Party**](#): 1500 UTC July 25 to 0300 UTC July 26.

Article 2: What Is a Net?

Adapted from the Wikipedia article "Amateur radio net," used under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license.

An amateur radio net, or simply a ham net, is a radio net made up of amateur radio operators. Most nets meet on a regular schedule and a specific frequency and are organized for a particular purpose, such as relaying messages, discussing a common interest, severe weather (as in a Skywarn activation), other emergencies, or simply as a regular gathering of friends for conversation. Nets are more or less formal depending on their purpose and organization. Groups of nets may work together for a common purpose, such as passing emergency messages during a disaster. One such system is the National Traffic System (NTS), organized and run by members of the American Radio Relay League to handle routine and emergency messages nationwide and locally.

Directed nets

A formal, or directed, net has a single net control station, the NCS, who manages a given session. The NCS calls the net to order at its start time, periodically calls for participants, listens for stations answering (checking in), keeps track of the roster, and generally orchestrates the net. A different station may serve as NCS for each session; overall operation and the scheduling of NCS assignments is handled by the net manager.

When a net covers a large area, such as a continent or even the world, a single NCS becomes impractical. To cover a large area, a net must use a frequency where signals travel long distances, but, ironically, that same long-distance propagation means stations close to each other may not hear one another. In that case, two or more NCSs spread out geographically can work together to stay in contact with everyone.

Tactical nets

A tactical net is a kind of directed net in which stations are given tactical call signs to make message handling efficient, and it is often more tightly controlled in timing, language and protocol than a regular net. Stations can refer to each other by tactical names, such as

"Medical One" or "Incident Command," so no one has to remember or stumble over legal call signs. Tactical call signs do not replace legal call signs, which stations must still announce at the required times.

Informal nets

An informal net may also have a net control station but lacks some or all of the formalities, beyond those used in ordinary on-air operating. Or it may start at the scheduled time and frequency in an ad hoc way, run by whoever arrives first. Club nets, such as ones for discussing equipment or other topics, often use an NCS simply to set the order in which participants speak, round-robin style.

Traffic nets

Traffic nets mainly relay formal written messages. For decades, amateurs in the United States and Canada have passed routine and emergency messages on behalf of others as part of the public-service mission allowed by their governments' amateur radio regulations. The American Radio Relay League, organized in 1914–15, was founded mainly to relay third-party messages. In many parts of the world outside North America, it is illegal for amateurs to pass messages for third parties. Today, with inexpensive communication available to everyone, routine message handling has dwindled and is largely used for training. During emergencies such as natural disasters, especially when normal communications are down, traffic nets using emergency-powered stations pass information into and out of affected areas.

DX nets, club nets and special-interest nets

DX nets help hams contact stations in distant places or regions where amateurs are scarce. By checking in to a DX net, a ham may get to contact a station they would be unlikely to hear by randomly tuning across the bands.

Amateur radio clubs often run nets so members can talk regularly; these can be clubs based on location or on a special interest. Special-interest clubs and other groups also run nets for discussing particular topics, and a wide variety exist, such as nets about vintage or antique radio equipment, and nets for using and discussing AM voice transmission.

Special Notices

July meeting date

The Handiham Radio Club's July meeting will be moved to July 12, because the first Sunday of July falls on the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The club bylaws automatically move our monthly meeting to the second Sunday when the first Sunday falls on a holiday weekend.

Radio Camp office hours

If you will be attending the 2026 Handiham Radio Camp in Minneapolis, September 9 through 16, you may have questions or special requests. To make it easy to reach our amazing and incredible Handiham Program Coordinator, Lucinda Moody, AB8WF, she will hold Zoom office hours every couple of weeks, right up until the Saturday before camp starts. This is the time and place to ask questions, get information about camp, and make any special requests for the hotel. You can join as often as you like, and you are not required to attend any of them. Most sessions are on Saturdays, but a couple are on Sundays because of events, like Dayton Hamvention and Field Day, that she will be attending.

- Sunday, June 28, 2–4 PM Central Daylight Time
- Saturday, July 11, 2–4 PM CDT
- Saturday, July 25, 2–4 PM CDT
- Saturday, August 8, 2–4 PM CDT

- Saturday, August 22, 2–4 PM CDT
- Saturday, September 5, 2–4 PM CDT

The meeting link is in your welcome-to-camp email, or you can ask the Handiham Program office to email it to you again.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 2026

- **June 20–21**, 1400–2100 UTC: USA 250th. W8FO, QCWA Chapter 142, Perrysburg, Ohio. Frequencies: 14.235, 21.235, 28.535, 50.125 MHz.
- **June 21**, 1200–2200 UTC: World Giraffe Day. W3G, East Penn ARC / Education Alliance for Amateur Radio, Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. Frequency: 7.266 MHz.
- **June 24 – January 1**, 0000–0000 UTC: Celebrating the lives of President Ronald Reagan and Mrs. Nancy Reagan. N6R, Ventura County ARS, Thousand Oaks, California. Frequency: 14.255 MHz.
- **June 24–29**, 0001–2359 UTC: W3M Montgomery ARC Field Day. W3M, Montgomery ARC, Damascus, Maryland. Frequencies: 7.030, 14.185, 28.400 MHz.
- **June 25–27**, 1500–1800 UTC: 37th Red Power Roundup. W0NOZ, Huron Amateur Radio Association, Huron, South Dakota. Frequencies: 28.385, 21.385, 14.285 MHz.
- **June 25 – July 8**, 0000–2359 UTC: America250 DARC. KM0DRC, Doniphan ARC, Doniphan, Missouri. Frequency: 28.500 MHz.
- **June 27–28**, 1800–1800 UTC: GSBARC Field Day. W2GSB, Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, Babylon, New York. Frequencies: 14.245, 28.500, 21.325, 7.275 MHz.
- **June 28 – July 3**, 0100–0400 UTC: Trail to Eagle. K2BSA/8, Boy Scouts of America, Michigan Crossroads Council, Metamora, Michigan. Frequencies: 14.330, 7.270, 3.840 MHz.

July 2026

- **July 1–8:** 13 Colonies Special Event. Participating stations include:
 - K2G, Powder Springs, Georgia, July 1–6, 1300–0400 UTC. Frequency: 14.223 MHz.
 - K2J, Louisburg, North Carolina, July 1–7, 1300–0400 UTC. Frequencies: 14.250, 7.185 MHz.
 - K2H, Longmeadow, Massachusetts, July 1–7, 0000–2359 UTC. Frequencies: 14.270, 21.320, 28.370, 14.045 MHz.
 - K2D, Trumbull, Connecticut, July 1–8, 1300–0400 UTC. Frequency: 14.074 MHz.
 - N2C, Johnston, Rhode Island, July 1–8, 1300–0400 UTC. Frequencies: 14.220, 14.230, 14.240, 14.250 MHz.
 - K2C, Johnston, Rhode Island, July 1–8, 1300–0400 UTC. Frequencies: 14.230, 14.240, 14.250, 14.260 MHz.
 - WM3PEN, Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 1–8, 1400–0400 UTC. Frequencies: 14.276, 7.276 MHz.
 - K2A, various locations in New York, July 1–8, 1300–0400 UTC. Frequencies: 14.278, 14.07, 7.226 MHz.
 - K2K, Manchester, New Hampshire, July 1–8, 1300–0400 UTC. Frequencies: 7.276, 14.276 MHz.
 - K2L, Fort Mill, South Carolina, July 1–8, 1300–0400 UTC.
- **July 1–6,** 1202–1202 UTC: Lake Ashton 250th anniversary special event. K4Y, Lake Ashton Amateur Radio Club, Winter Haven, Florida. 146.52 MHz FM; 7.250 MHz LSB and FT8; 14.250 and 21.250 MHz USB and FT8.
- **July 1–8,** 1500–0000 UTC: Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library dedication. K0ND, Theodore Roosevelt Amateur Radio Club, Medora, North Dakota. Frequencies: 28.430, 21.375, 14.340 MHz.

- **July 2–5**, 1300–2200 UTC: K3H special event station, Eastern PA Homestead Festival. K3H, East Penn ARC / Education Alliance for Amateur Radio, Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Frequency: 7.074 MHz.
- **July 3–5**, 1400–2000 UTC: World's Largest Rubber Duck, USS Little Rock. W2D, Radio Association of Western New York, Buffalo, New York. Frequencies: 7.260, 14.260 MHz.
- **July 4**, 1300–2100 UTC: USS Orleck Amateur Radio Society July 4th / USA 250 event. WJ4DD, USS Orleck Amateur Radio Society, Jacksonville, Florida. Frequencies: 14.250, 14.320, 7.190, 7.250 MHz.
- **July 4**, 1616–2323 UTC: America250, Point Blank. K5P, ULLWA, Pointblank, Texas. Frequency: 14.260 MHz.
- **July 4**, 1200–1800 UTC: Ashtabula 250 celebration. KC8OH, Amigos Radio Club Ashtabula, Jefferson, Ohio. Frequencies: 28.350, 7.275, 14.300, 3.850 MHz.
- **July 4–5**, 1200–0000 UTC: 250 Years as a Country. AL7NS, N4LA, Lakeland, Georgia. Frequencies: 14.266, 21.278, 28.450, 7.028 MHz.
- **July 5**, 1700–2100 UTC: 250 Years of America. WE7GV, Green Valley Amateur Radio Club, Sahuarita, Arizona. Frequencies: 14.242, 14.246, 14.248 MHz.
- **July 11**, 1700–2359 UTC: Independence Day, 07-04-1776. NI6IW, USS Midway Museum Ship (CV-41), San Diego, California. Frequencies: 7.250, 14.320, 14.070 MHz; PSK31; D-STAR on Papa System repeaters.
- **July 11**, 1400–2000 UTC: Colonial Williamsburg special event. K4RC, Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club, Williamsburg, Virginia. Frequencies: 7.265, 14.265 MHz.
- **July 12**, 3:00 PM Central time: Handiham Radio Club Zoom meeting.
- **July 12–13**, 1400–2000 UTC: Union Pacific Big Boy 4014. K8R, Struthers Regional Operators of Amateur Radio (W8RAR),

Struthers, Ohio. Frequencies: 14.270, 7.240, 14.074, 7.074 MHz.

- **July 13–19**, 1800–0100 UTC: Warrick County 4-H Fair. W4H, Warrick AuxComm, Boonville, Indiana. Frequency: 14.320 MHz SSB.
- **July 17–21**, 1300–2200 UTC: W3A commemoration of the Apollo 11 live TV broadcast from the Moon that let the world see mankind's first steps on the lunar surface. K3NEM, Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum, Middle River, Maryland. Frequencies: 14.269, 14.069, 7.269, 7.069 MHz.
- **July 18**, 1000–1400 UTC: Cedar Point Lighthouse on the Air. K3HKI, St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association, Lexington Park, Maryland. Frequencies: 7.205, 14.230, 21.300, 28.335 MHz.
- **July 18**, 1330–2100 UTC: NS Savannah launch anniversary. K3S, Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC, Port of Baltimore, Maryland. Bands: 40, 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters.
- **July 20–25**, 1300–2000 UTC: EAA AirVenture, the world's largest air show. W9ZL, Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Frequencies: 7.250, 14.275, 50.150 MHz.
- **July 20–26**, 0000–2359 UTC: The Brickyard 400, race three. W9IMS, Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC, Indianapolis, Indiana. Frequencies: 3.840, 7.245, 14.245, 18.140 MHz.
- **July 25**, 1300–2300 UTC: Minnesota Mosquito Challenge. W0ALX, Runestone ARC, Alexandria, Minnesota. Frequencies: 21.270, 14.230, 7.190 MHz.
- **Date not listed**: Carnation Festival special event. W8LKY, Alliance Amateur Radio Club, Alliance, Ohio. Frequencies: 7.050, 7.220, 14.050, 14.250 MHz.

Handiham Radio Club Board, June 2026

- 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, WX9IDX
- 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/>