



Radio Active Times, Issue 18, October 2026

The official newsletter of the Handiham Radio Club. Issue 18, October 2026.

Greetings from the Editor

Well, I think fall has finally arrived here in Virginia. The temperature has dropped, and soup is on the menu. With a mug of hot tea in one hand and a mic in the other, I am staying warm in my shack. I hope you are doing the same.

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.

September HRC Daily Net Statistics and Third Quarter Roundup

By Jerry Maccoux, W0UH, Net Manager

September was a productive month, marred by crashes and fixes caused by server mishaps. Despite those hiccups, we came close to a monthly check-in record. Several stations ran net control from Radio

Camp, including Linda Reeder, N7HVF; Jerry Maccoux, W0UH; and Michael Hutchings, KL3XL.

Check-ins by week, September 2026

Week	Check-ins
September 1–4	136
September 7–11	151
September 14–18	117
September 21–25	149
September 28–30	101
September total	654 (average 24.3 per net)

The third quarter total appears to be 1,931 checked-in stations, and the total from January 1 through September 30 appears to be 5,475, an average of 23.4 per net.

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

New Members and New Tickets

The following people have recently joined the club:

- Joe Green (no call yet)
- Robert Carter, NC5R

And John Lipsey has earned his ticket: KM7HWT. Welcome to our new members, and congratulations to John!

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: Ragchew

A **ragchew** is a long, relaxed conversation with no particular purpose: the opposite of a quick contest exchange.

- **Topic freedom:** conversations cover casual, everyday subjects like hobbies, backgrounds, families or local news, rather than contest exchanges or emergency traffic.
- **Duration:** unlike a 30-second signal report or a POTA or SOTA contact, a ragchew can last anywhere from 20 minutes to over an hour.
- **Round tables:** ragchewing often happens in a "round table" of three or more operators taking turns on one frequency, or in organized groups like the 7.272 Ragchew Net.
- **Modes:** you can ragchew on voice (SSB or FM), Morse code, or digital modes like VarAC.
- **Origin:** the term comes from the old idiom "chewing the rag," chatting casually for a long time, which early telegraphers and radio operators adopted.

Special Notice: BEAM Operating Event for Blind Hams

By Tom Behler, KB8TYJ

I have been helping a radio club in South Carolina organize a nationwide operating event for blind ham radio operators, in recognition of Blind Equality Achievement Month (BEAM). Here are the details.

Blind Equality Achievement Month is observed every October to raise awareness of people who are blind living in our communities. To honor it, the STEM Amateur Radio Club of Lancaster County, South Carolina, is sponsoring a special operating event for blind amateur radio operators, from Thursday, October 15, at 0000 UTC until Sunday, October 25, at 2359 UTC. All bands and modes may be used, including HF, VHF/UHF simplex, local repeaters and the usual VoIP digital modes.

The organizers have obtained K4B as the flagship call sign for the event. If you would like to operate as K4B, contact Vicki Carnes, AD3I, through the STEM Amateur Radio Club, and she will email you permission.

A log documenting all QSOs is required, with the usual items: call sign, RST report, date, time (UTC), band or frequency, mode, name and location. Accepted logging programs include N3FJP ALog and N1MM; an ADIF file from either is preferred. Word, Excel, text and PDF logs are also acceptable, and braille logs are welcome too. Please, no handwritten logs unless arranged beforehand with Jamie, KR4FHX, or Vicki, AD3I.

Special QSL cards will be available for a minimum donation of \$1.00 to cover postage. You can donate through the [STEM Amateur Radio Club website](#): go to the Home page, open the More menu, select Donate, and add the words "BEAM K4B" in the notes or comments area.

Please join us for all the fun from October 15 to 25 as we highlight the many accomplishments of blind amateur radio operators! Make your contacts in whatever way is most comfortable for you. Don't feel you have to run a fast-paced operation; take the time to have some real conversations. It is not about the numbers. It is about celebrating our

accomplishments as blind hams and our ability to serve our communities!

Article 1: Summits on the Air

Adapted from the Wikipedia article "Summits on the Air," used under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license.

Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an amateur radio award program launched in Great Britain in 2002 by John Linford. It encourages licensed amateurs to operate temporarily from mountain summits, reached by any means, including hiking, mountain climbing and cycling, and encourages others to listen for these stations and make two-way contacts with them. In areas that are easy to reach, some SOTA activations also serve as community outreach events.

Operators who set up on summits are called **activators**, and those who contact them are called **chasers**. An activator needs at least 4 two-way contacts, on any band or mode, for a successful activation, and may use several bands and modes to get them. Both activators and chasers earn points based on the summit's height, and a seasonal bonus may reflect the extra difficulty of some summits at certain times, such as higher summits in winter. Awards are based on accumulated points and special criteria, and contacts between two summits, called summit-to-summit, are considered special achievements. The program has more than 33,842 participants worldwide, about 7,000 of them in the United States.

Operators use Morse code, voice (FM or SSB) and digital modes such as FT8. Setups and modes vary with equipment, environment and license class. Both VHF and HF are used, and from a summit, operators enjoy improved line-of-sight propagation over obstructions that would otherwise block their signals. Contacts are also made through amateur radio satellites. The highest SOTA activation ever reported was in February 2019, when Polish amateur Tom Rudzinski, SQ9FVE, operated

from 6,962 meters (22,841 feet) above sea level, atop Aconcagua in Mendoza, Argentina.

Monthly Contest Spotlight

By Tom Behler, KB8TYJ

Here are some contests you might consider as we move from October into November. The list is a bit smaller than usual, but these are considered major contests in the amateur radio community, so get on the air and enjoy! Once again, this is only a small sampling, covering the contests I know best. I encourage you to visit the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) for the complete listing.

- [CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB](#): 0000 UTC October 24 to 2359 UTC October 25.
- [ARRL Sweepstakes, CW](#): 2100 UTC November 7 to 0300 UTC November 9.
- [ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB](#): 2100 UTC November 21 to 0300 UTC November 23.

Article 2: Will RADE Be the Next SSB?

Summarized from an item originally published on the ARRL website.

It has been half a century since single sideband (SSB) replaced AM as the most popular voice mode on HF, largely because it uses about half the bandwidth of an AM signal. Now FreeDV has a new digital voice mode, Radio Autoencoder, or RADE, that uses about half the bandwidth of an SSB signal and reportedly sounds more natural.

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), which funded research behind RADE, says it combines machine learning with classical digital signal processing and can work at signal-to-noise ratios as low as -2 dB, while addressing spectrum use, speech quality and power

efficiency. Most significantly, ARDC reports that manufacturers are beginning to build the mode into their radios, starting with a downloadable module for certain FlexRadio models; users of other transceivers can run it on a computer connected to the radio. More details are available from FreeDV and on the ARDC website.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 2026

- **October 15–25**, 0000–2359 UTC: BEAM, Blind Equality Achievement Month. K4B, STEM Amateur Radio Club, Lancaster, South Carolina. All bands and modes; 145.350 MHz.
- **October 23–25**, 1400–2300 UTC: US Coast Guard Auxiliary 87th birthday. N2S, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Marlton, New Jersey. Frequencies: 7.250, 21.3, 14.230, 28.350 MHz.
- **October 31 – November 1**, 1800–0300 UTC: 2026 Frankenstein Halloween FunXpedition. W00, Mid-MO ARC, Jefferson City, Missouri. Frequencies: 3.538, 3.963, 14.038, 14.280 MHz.

November 2026

- **November 1**, 3 PM Central time: Handiham Radio Club monthly Zoom meeting.
- **November 1–14**, 0000–2359 UTC: 51st anniversary of the sinking of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald. W8F, Livonia Amateur Radio Club, Livonia, Michigan. Frequencies: 14.260, 7.260, 7.050, 14.050 MHz.
- **November 1**, 0500–1000 UTC: 88th anniversary of the War of the Worlds broadcast. W0W, Delaware Valley Radio Association, Grovers Mill, New Jersey. Frequencies: 7.225, 14.255, 7.050, 14.050 MHz.
- **November 1–7**, 0000–2359 UTC: National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week. K0DOG, Dog Day Radio Amateur Radio Club,

Melville, New York. Frequencies: 7.035, 14.040 MHz.

- **November 1–30**, 0000–2359 UTC: SVARA 50th birthday. K5GVL, Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association, Greenville, Texas. Frequencies: 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, 28.350 MHz.
- **November 6–7**, 2200–2200 UTC: 18th Annual Veteran Honor Guard Vigil at the Ottawa, Illinois, War Memorial. W9TAL, American Legion Post 33 Amateur Radio Club, Ottawa, Illinois. Frequencies: 7.074, 14.074 MHz.
- **November 6–8**, 1600–2355 UTC: 2026 Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald, Split Rock Lighthouse. W0JH, Stillwater Amateur Radio Association, Stillwater, Minnesota. Frequencies: 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360 MHz.
- **November 6**, 1500–2300 UTC: Aviation Discovery Fest. WX30, Commemorative Air Force Central Texas Wing, San Marcos, Texas. Frequencies: 14.245, 14.285, 7.250 MHz.
- **November 7**, 1600–2200 UTC: 100-year celebration of Route 66. KF0MSJ, Zero-Beaters Amateur Radio Club, Union, Missouri. Frequency: 14.250 MHz.
- **November 8**, 1030–2030 UTC: W2TE SES POTA Day. W2GSB, Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, Babylon, New York. Frequencies: 14.245, 28.500, 21.325, 7.275 MHz.
- **November 11**, 1700–2100 UTC: 100th anniversary of Route 66. WE7GV, Green Valley Amateur Radio Club, Sahuarita, Arizona. Frequencies: 14.242, 14.246, 14.248 MHz.
- **November 11**, 1400–2100 UTC: USS Orleck Amateur Radio Society Veterans Day event. WJ4DD, USS Orleck Amateur Radio Society, Jacksonville, Florida. Frequencies: 7.190, 7.250, 14.250, 14.320 MHz.
- **November 11–18**, 0000–2359 UTC: Adoption of the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union. WV2M, Harleysville, Pennsylvania. Frequencies: 14.074, 7.074, 14.030 MHz.

- **November 11**, 1430–1900 UTC: Veterans Day, National D-Day Memorial. W2B, New River Valley Amateur Radio Club, Christiansburg, Virginia. Frequency: 14.262 MHz.
- **November 11**, 1500–2130 UTC: Veterans Day. W4V, American Victory ARC, Tampa, Florida. Frequency: 14.265 MHz.
- **November 13–15**, 2000–2000 UTC: Guns on the Air (GOTA), 65th anniversary of the WVARC. NY7S, West Valley Amateur Radio Club, Sun City, Arizona. Frequencies: 14.250, 147.300 MHz.
- **November 14**, 1400–2200 UTC: First transatlantic QSO. K3S, Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC, Baltimore, Maryland. 40 meters.
- **November 14–15**, 1420–1420 UTC: USS Cobia Veterans Day special event. NB9QV, USS Cobia Amateur Radio Club, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Frequencies: 7.240, 14.240 MHz.
- **November 14**, 1700–2359 UTC: Veterans Day (11-11-1919) and USMC birthday (11-10-1775). 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.
- **November 15**, 3 PM Central time: Handiham Radio Club Zoominar.
- **November 17**, 1500–2359 UTC: NRA birthday celebration. K7GST, Yavapai Amateur Radio Club, Prescott, Arizona. Frequencies: 7.250, 14.250, 21.335, 28.340 MHz.
- **November 21–23**, 0000–0000 UTC: W6SFM On-Air Bug Roundup. W6SFM, Samuel F. B. Morse Amateur Radio Club, Sacramento, California. Frequencies: 3.533, 7.033, 14.033, 21.033 MHz.
- **November 27 – December 7**, 0600–2359 UTC: Amateur Radio Software Award. K7A, Ames, Iowa. Frequencies: 14.250, 7.180 MHz.

Handiham Radio Club Board, October 2026

- President: Jerry Maccoux, W0UH

- Vice President: Tom Behler, KB8TYJ
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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/>