



# OFF THE AIR



Please visit us online at [www.GrantARC.org](http://www.GrantARC.org)

The GCARC is an ARRL affiliated club

## “Off The Air”

is the official publication of the  
Grant County Amateur Radio Club  
Vol. 10 No.3 March 2026

## 2026 Officers

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[k9nqw1979@gmail.com](mailto:k9nqw1979@gmail.com)  
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### Newsletter Editor

L. B. Nickerson – K9NQW  
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<http://www.grantarc.net>  
Member – Indiana Radio Club Council

### ARRL Indiana Section Staff:

Section Manager: Bob Burns - AK9R  
Assistant Section Manager and Section Traffic Manager:  
Brian Jenks – W9BGJ  
Section Emergency Coordinator: James Moehring - KB9WWM  
Assistant SEC: Brent Walls - N9BA  
Assistant SEC: Tony Stokes - N9UN  
State Government Liason – Dave Spoelstra - N9KT  
Public Information Coordinator – Barry Palencer – KC9WMS  
Section Youth Coordinator – Andrew Murrey – N9AWM  
Technical Special Coordinator – Thomas Busch – WB8WOR  
<http://www.inarrl.org>

### Section Jobs Description

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/>

## Grant County ARC Nets

**What:** 2 Meter Net  
**When:** Every Sunday Evening  
**Time:** 2030 hrs Local Time  
**Freq:** 146.790- (PL 141.3)  
**Alternate Freq.** 147.195+ (PL 141.3)

**What:** DMR Net – Indiana Crossroads Net  
**When:** Every Monday Night  
**Time:** 2000 hrs Local Time  
**Freq:** 442.750+ Talkgroups: 8710 and 31189

**What:** DMR Net – Indiana Statewide Net  
**When:** Every Tuesday Night  
**Time:** 2000 hrs Local Time  
**Freq:** 442.750+ Talkgroup 3118

**What:** Dstar Net – Indiana Statewide DStar Net  
**When:** Every Thursday Evening  
**Time:** 2000 hrs Local Time  
**Freq:** 443.400+ {(W9EBN) (Reflector 24b)}

**What:** Grant County RACES Net  
**When:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month  
**Time:** 8:00 PM EST  
**Freq:** 146.790- (PL 141.3)  
Talkgroup 31181



The American Radio Relay League  
225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111  
or phone (860)594-0200  
or fax (860)594-0303



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## Notes from the President

Greetings!

It was great to see and visit with everyone at this month's meeting. We had a great turnout!

The executive team has already begun planning for some club fundraisers this year and will continue looking and applying to funding sources. If you have any ideas or contacts you would like to share, please do.

Immediately following our meeting, Kevin Hicks, Gregg Ballinger, Scott Buckles and myself had a quick conversation. The idea was brought forward that since I had a server available, we could possibly host our own website to save some ongoing operational costs. Gregg has the infrastructure to allow it onto the internet, and Scott has the expertise to setup the hardware. We will be working on this over the coming weeks and will update the club on the progression. Thank you gentlemen for the great idea!

As we move forward through the year, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any ideas/goals/changes you would like to see in our club.

God Bless and remain Radio Active

73 - Eric KC9AZP

Thanks,

Eric Creech  
765-506-1855  
[www.yourpropertyproslc.com](http://www.yourpropertyproslc.com)



## Notes from the Editor

At our February meeting there were discussions on getting the club more involved with activities such as Field Day, raffles to raise funds, and just getting together for some socializing and operating for fun. Eric said he wanted ideas from the club Members. He can be reached at 765-506-1855 or by email: [yourpropertypros@outlook.com](mailto:yourpropertypros@outlook.com).

There was a discussion on how to make the community aware of the club and what we do and how we help the community, Below is a list of festivals that are happening in Grant County. We would like your input on whether we should partake in these activities. The festivals in Red are what we have done in the past and will continue to do in the future.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FESTIVAL NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
06-20 to 27	Grant County 4-H Fair	Marion, IN
06-27 to 28	ARRL Field Day Weekend	Marion, IN
08-07 to 09	Van Buren Popcorn Festival	Van Buren, IN
09-05	FlyIn/CruiseIn	Marion, IN
09-11 to 13	Matthews Cover Bridge Festival	Matthews, IN
09-12	Swayzee 5K Run	Swayzee, IN
09-25 to 27	James Dean Festival	Fairmount, IN

After April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year the Grant County Amateur Radio Club will have a new Web page Scott Buckles – KD9JKI, and myself are revamping the website. Eric Creech – KC9AZP has donated a Lenovo server. This server will be used primarily for the club's web-page. Hopefully this website will be easier to navigate. One of things will be adding Meet The Members. This page would give the list of active members with their photo, name, callsign and email address so that members can connect with other members. A release form is provided on the next page. You can visit the new web-page at <https://grantcarc.com>. Let us know what you think.

Also let me know what you want to see in the newsletter. I am always open to suggestions.



L B Nickerson  
Editor

# Grant County Amateur Radio Club Members Consent Form

The member listed below gives permission to the GCARC to post on its website my picture and email address under the members listing tab. No member information will be posted on the the GCARC website without this written authorization.

The picture and email will stay on the members listing as long as the member is in good standing with the club and yearly dues are up to date.

This permission may be revoked by the member at any time by providing notice, written or verbal, to the GCARC. Upon revoking permission, personal information will be removed as soon as practical.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

On this day: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# License 2 Year Grace Period

The following hams from Grant County have expired licenses that fall under the 2 year grace period. If you know any of these hams please reach out to them and remind them that their license is within the 2 year period of expiration.

## Fairmount

Callsign	Name	Expired Date	Grace Period Date
KI4JMJ	Hammontree, Derek A	04/07/2025	04/07/2027

## Gas City

Callsign	Name	Expired Date	Grace Period Date
AE4XT	Esterline, Ralph C	07/14/2025	07/17/2027
KA9VEW	Walters, Angie K	02/05/2026	02/05/2028

## Jonesboro

Callsign	Name	Expired Date	Grace Period Date
K9JRA	Akers, Jay R	04/12/2024	04/12/2026
KD9FIH	Bradley, Casey C	01/28/2026	01/28/2028

## Marion

Callsign	Name	Expired Date	Grace Period Date
KB4MDR	Robinette, Michael D	11/16/2024	11/16/2026
KD9CXN	Reynolds, David J	01/30/2025	01/30/2027
W9CUC	Manor, Robert M	07/20/2024	07/20/2026
WB9HQA	Galbraith, Gary G	04/19/2024	04/19/2026
KA8HCY	Sellars, Mary Jo	02/16/2026	02/16/2028
KC9GZN	Ballinger, Mindy R	01/04/2025	01/04/2027
KD9BVI	Columbus, Christopher R	07/24/2024	07/24/2026
W9RWC	Cloud, Richard W	09/08/2024	09/08/2026
WD9HLY	Galbraith, Merrilee K	01/25/2025	01/25/2027

## Matthew

Callsign	Name	Expired Date	Grace Period Date
KA9FDN	Biggs, Harold A	08/19/2024	08/19/2026
KD9DCQ	King, David L	03/04/2025	03/04/2027

## Upland

Callsign	Name	Expired Date	Grace Period Date
K9RNN	Thorne, Gary D	11/20/2025	11/20/2027
KD9CQK	Shelor, Christopher A	12/01/2024	12/01/2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2 meter weekly net 8:30 PM Net Control KC9RAX	2 DMR Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control KC9OYW	3	4	5 Indiana D-Star Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control K9NQW	6	7
Day Light Savings Time 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2 meter weekly net 8:30 PM Net Control K9NQW	DMR Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control KC9OYW			Indiana D-Star Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control K9NQW		See Notes Below
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
2 meter weekly net 8:30 PM Net Control K9NQW	DMR Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control K9NQW			Indiana D-Star Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control KA9OPL	Grant County RACES Net 8 PM Net Control K9NQW	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
2 meter weekly net 8:30 PM Net Control K9NQW	DMR Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control K9NQW	See Notes Below		Indiana D-Star Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control KA9OPL		
29	30	31				
2 meter weekly net 8:30 PM Net Control K9NQW	DMR Weekly Net 8 PM Net Control K9NQW					

Notes: March 14<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Breakfast Meeting – 8:30 AM at Georgie's Cafe on the Bypass  
 March 14<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Siren Test – 11:45 AM  
 March 20<sup>th</sup> – Monthly RACES Net – 8:00 PM 146.790 (PL 141.3);146.195 (PL 141.3); Talkgroup 31181  
 March 24<sup>th</sup> - GCARC Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM Marion City Hall

**Other Weekly Nets:**

- Monday: Crossroads DMR Net at 8:00 PM on Talkgroups 8710 and 31189
- Monday: Miami County ARC ARES/RACES Net at 8:00 PM on 147.345 (PL131.8)
- Tuesday: Indiana Statewide DMR Net at 8:00 PM on Talkgroups 3118
- Tuesday and Thursday: Miami County ARC Ladies with a License Net on 147.345(PL 131.8)
- Wednesday: Blackford Amateur Radio Club Net at 8:30 PM – also on Talkgroup 31181 and 146.655
- Thursday: Indiana Statewide Dstar Net at 8:00 PM on Reflector 24B
- Thursday: 10 Meter Net at 9:00 PM on 28.420. Backup Frequencies: 28.425, 28.015
- Sunday: Mississinewa Valley Amateur Radio Association net at 7:30 PM on 147.195 (PL 141.3)
- Sunday: Miami County ARC Sunday Night Ragchew net at 8:00 PM on 147.345 (PL131.8)





Grant County Amateur Radio Club

Membership Application 2026

Please complete this form and return it with your dues. Make all checks or money orders payable to **GCARC**. Send the printed form with your dues to the Treasurer at the address below. You may also return this application at one of the club's meetings. Please either mail or bring this application and dues to the next meeting.

Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 301 S Branson St. Park in lot on East side of building. Enter on East side.

Mailing Address:

Grant County Amateur Radio Club  
P O Box 1786  
Marion, IN 46952

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or Post Office Box

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address Line 2

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current ARRL Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:**

- Full Annual Membership: \$25.00 per person. (**\$5.00 goes into the Repeater Fund**)
- Family Annual Membership: Full membership + \$5.00 per person, maximum of \$30.00 per household
- Associate Membership: \$15.00 per person.  
    Limitations on Associate Membership:
  1. No voting privileges
  2. Cannot hold Office
- Partial-Year Membership: After July 1<sup>st</sup> dues are reduced to ½ the normal rate for Full or Associate Membership. (**Full Membership is \$12.50 with \$2.50 going into the Repeater Fund**)

**Please make sure you sign the form.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to abide by and support the Constitution and ByLaws of the Grant County Amateur Radio Club.

**NOTE: Please fill out a separate form for each family member.**

# Basic Jump Kit

Below is just a basic Jump Kit. This kit is different than a go box. The Jump Kit is designed to be ready at all times. The below Jump Kit should sustain you for at least 24 hours.

## 1. Batteries for your gadgets

Extra Ni-cad packs for your H.T.

Extra alkaline "AA's" because just about everything uses them these days

Extra alkaline "D" and "C" cells for your flashlight

Possibly a large deep cycle battery for your shack if you don't leave home

An empty "AA" pack for your H.T. in case all of your Ni-cad packs are dead

## 2. Maps/ Reference Books

Maps for the county you will be serving

A repeater directory or just a list of local frequencies (including HF)

A R.A.C.E.S. directory if your group has one

## 3. Electronic gadgets

Flashlight (with the batteries NOT in it but rather in your bag/kit because they will go dead if you leave them in the flashlight)

A GOOD 5 watt H.T. with a GOOD, high gain mag mount antenna

(Don't forget the SMA or BNC to PL259 adapter)

G.P.S. or a APRS system is a must for rural deployment

## 4. Misc items that might be seasonal

Coat (heavy, light or rain suit)

Dry socks, shoes, shirt, shorts or pants

Orange or yellow construction type vest

Bottled drinking water

Food like MRE's, Power bars, Cliff bars or trail mix simple, easy eat on the run type stuff (NO TWINKIES Hi Hi)

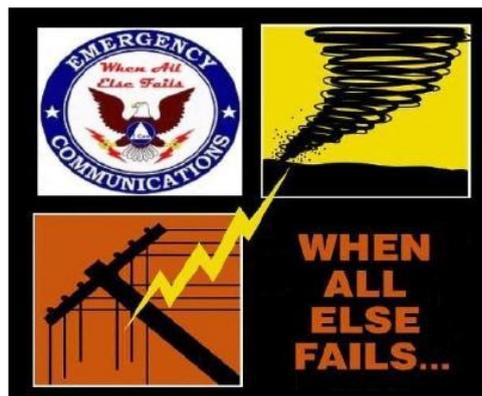
Pen and paper or a small notebook

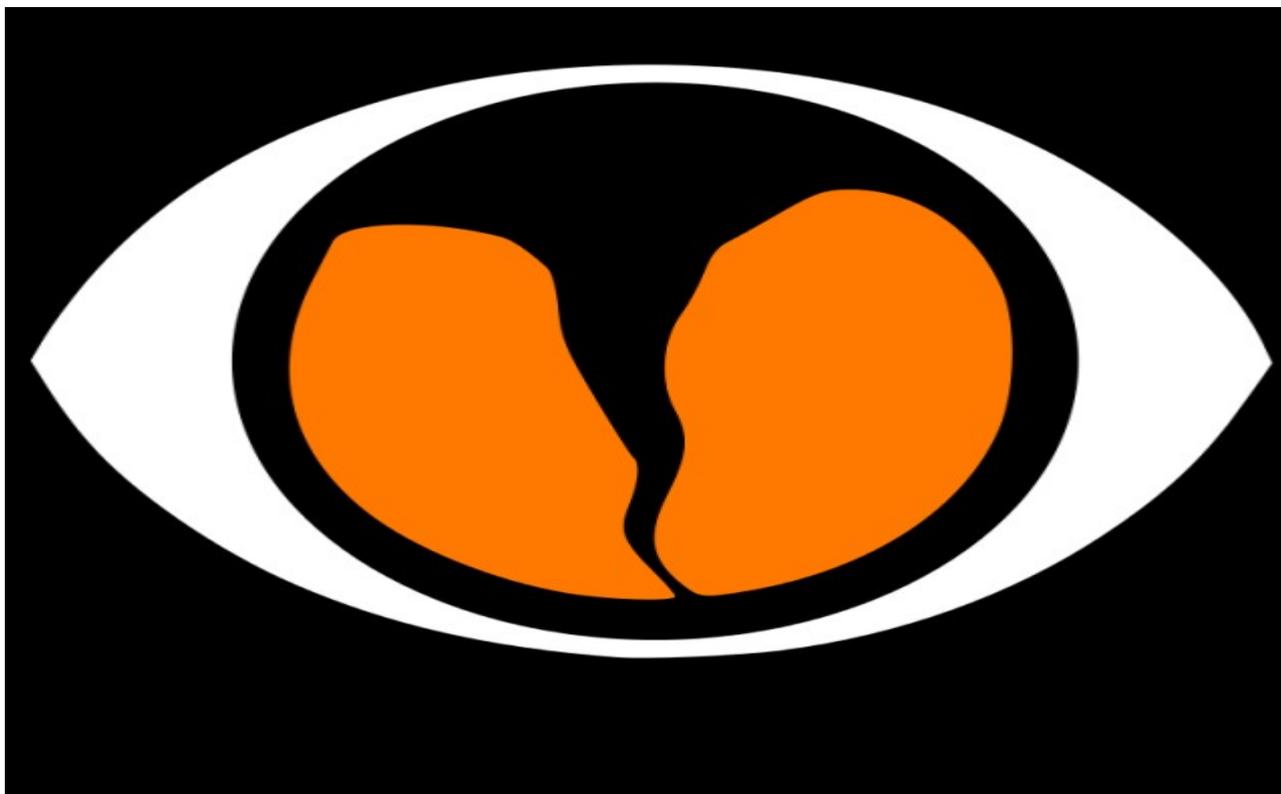
First aid kit

I.D. and money (cash is best you never know if the ATM is with or without power)

If taking prescription medication be sure to bring it as well. You never know how long you will be out there.

And last but not least keep your car or truck ABOVE ½ a tank of fuel (you will not have time to get gas in a disaster or in the middle of a long deployment.)





# SKYWARN

Skywarn Spotter Training - Madison County

Tuesday, March 12 · 6:00 – 8:00pm

Anderson University York Performance Hall - 1100 E 5th St., Anderson, IN 46012

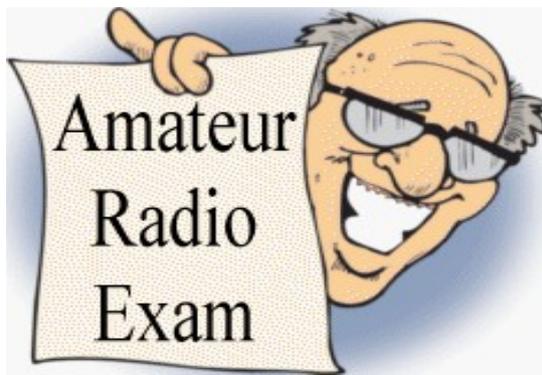
Skywarn Spotter Training - Howard County

Saturday, March 23 · 3:00 – 5:00pm

Eastern Middle/High School

421 S Harrison St, Greentown, IN 46936, USA

Public Spotter Training. Enter through Door 11 and go to Performing Arts  
Center/Auditorium



**03/07/26**

**Sponsor:** Wells County Radio Club

**Time:** 09:00 AM (**Walk-ins Allowed**)

**Contact:** Rick Allen Velasquez

(765) 348-9322

**Email:** ab9hp@yahoo.com

**VEC:** ARRL/VEC

**Location:** Wells County Public Library

2200 West Washington Street

Bluffton, IN 46714-1996

**03/07/2026**

**Sponsor:** Hancock County ARC

**Time:** 9:00 PM (**Walk-ins Allowed**)

**Contact:** David Kelsner

(317) 440-8486

**Email:** kc9urp@hrtc.net

**VEC:** ARRL/VEC

**Location:** Hancock EMA EOC

640 South Franklin St

Greenfield, IN 46140-9654

**Website:** <https://w9at.org/vd-testing>

**03/14/2026**

**Sponsor:** Indianapolis Radio Club

**Time:** 12:00 AM (**No Walk-ins Allowed**)

**Contact:** James Kajder

(505) 228-3704

**Email:** testing@indyradioclub.org

**VEC:** ARRL/VEC

**Location:** Salvation Army EDS

Training Facility

4020 Georgetown Road

Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407

**Register / Call Ahead**

**03/17/2026**

**Sponsor:** Anderson Repeater Club

**Time:** 07:00 PM (**Walk-ins Allowed**)

**Contact:** Stephen M. Riley

(765) 425-4627

**Email:** wa9cwe@arrl.net

**VEC:** ARRL/VEC

**Location:** Madison County EOC

200 Delaware Street

Anderson, IN 46016-2238

<https://andersonrepeater.club>

**03/23/2026**

**Sponsor:** Marshall County ARC

**Time:** 8:00 PM (**Walk-ins Allowed**)

**Contact:** Richard J. Basham

(574) 216-6080

**Email:** k9ilu@yahoo.com

**VEC:** Laurel VEC

**Location:** Cornerstone Church of Argos

115225 State Road 10

Argos, IN 46501-9519

**On Line Testing**

The following testing is being conducted on line by the Whitley County Radio Club

**Dates:** March 02, 09, 16, 23, 30

**Time:** 08:00 PM

**PreRegistration is required**

Go to [Hamstudy.org](https://Hamstudy.org) Find an Exam Session





### Wabash Valley ARA Hamfest

**Start Date:** 03/28/2026

**End Date:** 03/28/2026

**Location:** Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds

6550 North State Road 59

Brazil, IN 47834

**Website:** <http://w9uuu.org>

**Sponsor:** Wabash Valley Amateur  
Radio Association, Inc

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-IN:** 146.685 (PL 151.4 Hz)

**Public Contact:** Chuck Procarione, W9COD

444 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Clinton, IN 47842

Phone: 812-239-8061

**Email:** [Hamfest@w9uuu.org](mailto:Hamfest@w9uuu.org)

### Columbus ARC Hamfest

**Start Date:** 03/28/2026

**End Date:** 03/28/2026

**Location:** Columbus North High School

1400 25<sup>th</sup> St

Columbus, IN 47201

**Website:** <http://carcnet.net>

**Sponsor:** Columbus Amateur Radio  
Club

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Public Contact:** Mike Idlewine, WE9MI

4373 E Windsor Lane

Columbus, IN 47201

Phone: 812-521-6206

**Email:** [Idlewine@comcast.net](mailto:Idlewine@comcast.net)





# Contesting



Below is a list for contesting. This list is from the ARRL.org webpage

March 2024

International DX - Phone      Date: 07-08

Rules can be found at [www.arrl.org/contest](http://www.arrl.org/contest)

Also for other contest that are available go to the above webpage and look under Contest Corral.

## Special Event Stations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Special Event</u>	<u>Webpage</u>
03/03 to 03/14	GERATOL NET 50 Plus Years of Service	<a href="http://geratol.net">geratol.net</a>
03/07	Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge	<a href="http://W4OT.com">W4OT.com</a>
03/07	YL POTA Party – Erie Canalway <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/2353219948458429">https://www.facebook.com/events/2353219948458429</a>	
03/14	68 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Atomic Bomb Drop near Florence South Carolina	<a href="http://www.w4ulh.net">www.w4ulh.net</a>

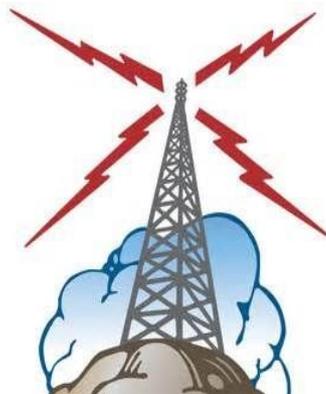




## *Special Event Stations*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Special Event</u>	<u>Webpage</u>
03/14	Celbrating Florida's Statehood	
03/14 to 03/15	David Sarnoff Radio Club PI Day	<a href="https://n2re.org">https://n2re.org</a>
03/14	Launching of USS Midway Aircraft Carrier	
03/15	Battleship USS Wisconsin BB-64 on the air In honor of Wisconsin QSO party	<a href="http://n4wis.com">n4wis.com</a>
03/21	First LORAN Experimental Stations	<a href="http://qrz.com/db/k3s">qrz.com/db/k3s</a>
03/21 to 03/23	New Jersey Knights of Columbus Free Throw Champtionship for Youths	<a href="http://NJ2KC.org">NJ2KC.org</a>
03/21	Solivita Car Show	<a href="https://solivitarradioclub.weebly.com">https://solivitarradioclub.weebly.com</a>
03/21 to 03/22	Virginia QSO Party	<a href="http://qsl.net/sterling">qsl.net/sterling</a>
03/28	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Loomis Hamfest	<a href="https://hamfest.w6ek.org">https://hamfest.w6ek.org</a>

More info on these Special Events Stations go to: [http://www.arrl.org/special\\_events](http://www.arrl.org/special_events)



# Ham Radio Trader

Items on this page are for sale by hams.

The following rules will apply for items to be listed on this page.

1. All items must be Amateur Radio related

**Examples:** Ham radio gear and computer items.

2. Ads must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month so that they can be put in the newsletter the following month.

Example: Items for the March newsletter must be submitted no later than February 15th

Ads must have the following information.

Item description, picture of item in jpg form, selling price, and email of seller.

You can send your ad to [k9nqw1979@gmail.net](mailto:k9nqw1979@gmail.net)

## For Sale - Example



### **Icom IC-2720H Transciever**

Icom IC-2720H VHF/UHF

Transciever: VHF-144-148 MHz

UHF-440-450 MHz

Reciver Frequency Coverage:

Left side: 118-550 Mhz,

Right side: 118-174, 375-850, 910-999.99 MHz

(less Cellular)

Mode: FM, AM Memory Channels: 212

Output Power: VHF: 50W, 15W, 5W

UHF: 35W, 15W, 5W

Power output is selectable

Power Supply Requirement: 13.8V DC

Asking: \$220.00

Contact: Nick at [k9nqw@yahoo.com](mailto:k9nqw@yahoo.com)



The Grant County Amateur Radio Club has several pieces of ham equipment for sale. The equipment and the prices can be found in January's "OFF THE AIR" or on our website - Grantarc.net. If you are interested in any of this equipment you can contact me at 765-603-5322 or email me at k9nqw1979@gmail.com

## Ham Radio Operator

*Noun*

An introvert who shells out big bucks on expensive electronics for the purpose of sitting in a room attempting to connect with total strangers.

# Ham Equipment For Sale

For Sale DMR radio, Bluetooth microphone is brand new never used, radio is about 6 months old. Has been programmed with my call sign. \$500 for both Firm



Contact Information:  
Linda Bowman – KB9YAO  
linda.bowman@yahoo.com  
260-228-9386