

Hamvention 2026 Forums

Friday, May 15th, 2026

HamSCI: The Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation

9:15 - 10:50 AM in Room 1

Moderated by Dr. Nathan Frissell, W2NAF

HamSCI is an international project to bring together the amateur radio and professional space science communities to advance both science and ham radio. This year, we discuss new results for the Large Scale Traveling Ionospheric Disturbance Project, a version of the Personal Space Weather Station that you can build from scratch, Meteor Scatter QSO Party Results, and an upcoming collaboration with a NASA mission. HamSCI Speakers include Diego Sanchez (KD2RLM), Bob Reif (W1XP), Gary Mikitin (AF8A) and David McGaw (N1HAC).

Lightning Protection, Generators and Inverters and RFI

9:15 - 10:50 AM in Room 2

Moderated by Jim Bacher, WB8VSU

Join Moderator Jim Bacher (WB8VSU) and Gary Bishop (NQ0V) for an informative forum dealing with the ins and outs of lightning protection, RFI, and Generator and Inverter information.

Updates on the Elecraft K4 Radio and Suite of Upgrades

9:15 - 10:30 AM in Room 3

Moderated by Scott Wright, K0MD

Join Scott Wright (K0MD), Eric Swartz (WA6HHQ), Ed Muns (W0YK) and Bob Wilson (N6TV) to learn the tips and tricks to maximizing K4D performance, including Remote Operation with the K4/0 radio including So2R operation and operating via Star Link. Learn of the updates on planned improvements to the K4D.

TAPR - Topics in Digital Radio

9:20 - 10:30 AM in Room 4

Moderated by Dave Larsen, KV0S

Join Dave Larsen (KV0S), Paul Elliot (WB6CXC), and George Byrkit (K9TRV) as they speak on development of a SDR receiver to be used with KA9Q radio software and choosing an antenna for WSPR daemon reception use (N6GN SaS variants vs DXE RSEAV1).

Supersonic Heterodynes, Frequency Modulation, Brick Phones, 5G, and Cosmic Radiation — How RCA Members Changed History

10:40 - 11:50 AM in Room 3

Moderated by David Bart, W9DPB

Join Radio Club of America (RCA) President Alan Spindel (AG4WK) and RCA President Emeritus David Bart (W9DPB) for an engaging blend of history and technical exploration, tracing the remarkable contributions of RCA honorees Edwin Armstrong, Marty Cooper, Ted Rappaport, and Robert Wilson — individuals who reshaped radio technology and our understanding of the universe. Founded in 1909, the Radio Club of America is the world's oldest wireless organization. Come discover how we continue to influence amateur radio and science today. Door prizes including complimentary club memberships and more.

DX Marathon: Record Growth, 2025 Results, and What's Ahead

10:40 - 11:50 AM in Room 4

Moderated by Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W

Mark Wohlschlegel (WC3W) will delve into the DX Marathon Program as it continues to experience strong global momentum, achieving over 30% year-over-year growth in participation during 2025 - marking another year of double-digit expansion. This forum will review the key results and highlights from the 2025 program, including participation trends, geographic reach, and operating achievements by stations around the world.

Taking Amateur Radio to New Heights

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM in Room 1

Moderated by Bill Brown, WB8ELK

Join The Rocket City Balloonatic, Moderator Bill Brown (WB8ELK), Tom Graham (WX8TOM), and Andrew Koenig (KE5GDB) for three balloon talks. Learn of the latest advances in Amateur Radio High Altitude Balloons, free payloads falling from the sky, converting radiosondes to the 70cm band with HORUS telemetry, Wnet image modes and going vertical, amateur radio signals from the sky.

ARRL & Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Forum

11:00 AM - 12:20 PM in Room 2

Moderated by Walt Hudson, K4OGO

Join "Salty Walt" Hudson, K4OGO — of the popular Coastal Waves and Wires YouTube channel — for a lively, practical look at building portable antennas that really perform. Walt shows how to create simple, effective antennas you can take to a park, beach, or summit, and make contacts around the world. Drawing from his ARRL books, including Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Sketchbook and Salty Walt's NEXT LEVEL Portable Antenna Sketchbook, he shares designs, tips, and real-world insights you can use right away. Sponsored by ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®.

Radio Club of America and Viavi Test Equipment Tutorial and Workshop

12:00 - 12:50 PM in Room 3

Moderated by Alan Spindel, AG4WK

Co-sponsored by RCA and Viavi, Alan Spindel (AG4WK) and Gordon Beattie (W2TTT) bring their expertise in public safety communication to the Dayton Hamvention. Join us for this unique tutorial and workshop covering the test and measurement of amateur radio equipment using professional-grade Viavi service monitor equipment. Attendees will gain valuable insights into proper radio testing techniques and performance verification, followed by an interactive workshop where radio amateurs are encouraged to bring their handheld equipment for live testing during the forum. For those with larger pieces of equipment, or anyone who needs additional time, Gordon and the Viavi test equipment will remain available after the forum at the RCA booth. This forum brings together the Radio Club of America—the world's oldest wireless society, founded in 1909—and Viavi, a global leader in test and measurement and optical technologies for over 100 years. Come and get hands-on experience you can apply to your own station.

Kit Building Techniques For Success

12:00 - 12:50 PM in Room 4

Moderated by Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB

Join Joe Eisenberg (K0NEB) for an informative session dealing with techniques for helping beginners through kit building.

SOTA - High Adventure for All		
12:30 - 1:50 PM in Room 1		Moderated by Keith Schlottman, KR7RK
<p>SOTA provides an opportunity for hams of all ages and skill levels to experience Radio Adventure at the highest level - literally! Whether you are activating a mountain summit or chasing from anywhere, there are countless ways to enjoy the SOTA program. Our Speakers Paula Uscaín (K9IR) and Dean Blair (K2JB) will share tips and stories about their experiences. Information will be provided about how anyone can enjoy SOTA (you don't need to be an athlete or a youngster!), how you can combine it with other ham radio programs (for example a joint SOTA/POTA activation, or activating during a contest), how to participate when you don't live in the mountains, special SOTA events such as campouts and annual challenges, and more. Audience participation is encouraged!</p>		
Our CW Journeys and How You Can Have One Too: LICW Members Talk Up Close and Personal		
12:30 - 1:50 PM in Room 2		Moderated by Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE
<p>Join Howard Bernstein (WB2UZE) and Mike Padron (N1CC) as they speak about their CW journeys and how you can have one too. LICW members talk up close and personal in a candid, story-driven session where Long Island CW Club members share what it actually looked like to learn Morse code - what worked, what didn't, the plateaus, and the breakthroughs. You'll hear a range of journeys (brand-new learners through confident on-air operators), along with practical takeaways you can use immediately: how to start (or restart) the right way, how to practice without burning out, how to handle missed characters and keep flowing, how sending and receiving reinforce each other, and how a supportive community accelerates progress. If CW feels intimidating, this talk is designed to make it feel achievable - because it is - and to leave you with a clear path to begin your own journey, wherever you are today!</p>		
System Fusion		
1:00 - 2:20 PM in Room 3		Moderated by Mark Thompson, WB9QZB
<p>Join Mark Thompson (WB9QZB) and John Kruk (N9UPC) National Sales Manager of Yaesu USA as they discuss the History of WiRES-X Networking for System Fusion and the new WiRES-X version 2.0 software.</p>		
RTTY & Digital Contesting		
1:00 - 2:20 PM in Room 4		Moderated by Ed Muns, W0YK
<p>Join moderator Ed Muns (W0YK) of RTTY and Tim Shoppa (N3QE) for an informative discussion delving into competing in the single-operator multi-transmitter category. Specifics include automating digital contesting to the max and tips for improving RTTY/ digital contest log checking.</p>		
Antenna Forum		
2:00 - 5:00 PM in Room 1		Moderated by Tim Duffy, K3LR
<p>Join Moderator Tim Duffy (K3LR) and Speakers Hal Kennedy (N4GG), Greg Ordy (W8WV), John Vogel (N1PGA) and Lee Barrett (K7NM) for a discussion on antennas. Specific topics include "Investigating the End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) Antenna & What Makes a Good RF Connector", "The Yagi Turns 100", "Effective Antennas Without Towers", and "The C-Match Method of Phasing Verticle Antennas."</p>		
FreeDV's RadioAutoencODer (RADE) HF Digital Voice		
2:00 - 2:50 PM in Room 2		Moderated by Mel Whitten, K0PFX
<p>Join Mel Whitten (K0PFX) as he moderates the HF Digital Voice Forum. Walter Holmes (K5WH) will describe how RADE meets the challenges of HF propagation by providing Noise Free Communications with Clear Speech Quality. JJ Boyd's (KG4VCF) "Getting on the Air with FreeDV" will present a Quick Guide for Setting Up Great Audio and Smooth Digital Voice. Over-the-Air (OTA) recordings and videos will demonstrate RADE's robustness and how voice quality exceeds that of SSB while occupying only 1.5KHz of bandwidth.</p>		
Amateur Radio & the Law		
2:30 - 3:20 PM in Room 3		Moderated by Fred Hopengarten, K1VR
<p>Join Fred Hopengarten, Esq. (K1VR) of AntennaZoning.com, Bob Famiglio, Esq. (K3RF), and John Robert Stratton, Esq. (N5AUS) for a discussion on current legal events affecting amateur radio.</p>		
Hackers in Amateur Radio		
2:30 - 3:20 PM in Room 4		Moderated by Jeremy Hong, KD8TUO
<p>Join Jeremy Hong (KD8TUO), Ed Wilson (N2XDD), Arsenio Menendez (KN4OIH), Terry Schanno (NV00) and Brian Raker (W4WWW) explore the overlap and coexistence of the amateur radio and hacker communities, and how each has influenced the other. We will discuss how modern tools and platforms like Software Defined Radio (SDR) and Meshtastic are enabling new experimentation, rapid prototyping, and open source collaboration in Amateur Radio. We will also highlight how hacker spaces and conferences are becoming major entry points into the hobby. Attendees can expect practical examples, community perspectives, and ideas for welcoming and collaborating across both worlds.</p>		
Andy's Ham Radio Linux		
3:00 - 3:50 PM in Room 2		Moderated by Andy Stewart, KB1OIQ
<p>Join moderator Andy Stewart (KB1OIQ) who has created a popular software collection called "Andy's Ham Radio Linux", which contains over 80 Free Software/Open Source programs for ham radio and Linux. Andy's talk will cover the computer requirements, supported flavors of Linux, and a high level overview of some of the available programs.</p>		
The Latest from ARDC: Grants and 44Net		
3:30 - 5:00 PM in Room 3		Moderated by Rosy Schechter, KJ7RYV

Rosy Schechter (KJ7RYV) and John Burwell (K15QKX) will let you know what ARDC has been up to and some new ways to get involved. We'll cover updates on ARDC's grantmaking activities, including its priority areas for funding and examples of projects supporting experimentation, education, and open technology in amateur radio and digital communications. The discussion will also provide context on how these efforts fit into ARDC's broader work supporting innovation and learning across these communities. They will also cover recent 44Net and related technology developments, including 44Net Connect – a newly released system and the easiest way to get started with 44Net using modern networking tools. 44Net address space through 44Net Connect is freely available for non-commercial use by licensed hams. Additional updates will highlight ongoing work by volunteers to support the 44Net's continued evolution, expanding opportunities for experimentation with TCP/IP in amateur radio and digital communications.

Women Building Community Through Amateur Radio

3:30 - 5:00 PM in Room 4

Moderated by Anne Manna, WB1ARU

The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) is pleased to present an interactive forum for all women attending Hamvention, whether licensed or not. Moderator Anne Manna (WB1ARU) and Diane Ortiz (K2DO), President of YLRL, will have presentations that encourage women in building community through the adventure of amateur radio. There will also be time for networking and meeting other YLs.

Arduino and Microcontrollers - Going The Distance

4:00 - 5:00 PM in Room 2

Moderated by Glen Popiel, KW5GP

Join Glen Popiel (KW5GP) and discover how to add remote control to your microcontroller projects. Learn about the various RF modes and methods available to microcontrollers, including Bluetooth, Bluetooth LE, LoRa, Wi-Fi, and mesh networking. Learn the features and advantages of each, and how to choose between them to create your own remote control projects.