

Hamvention 2026 Forums

Sunday, May 17th, 2026

POTA Hacks: Little Things Add Up to Big Success

9:15 - 10:15 AM Room 1

Moderated by Michael Martens, KB9VBR

Over years of portable ham radio operation, we've all collected little tips and tricks that make life easier. Michael Martens (KB9VBR) will share some of his favorite Parks on the Air operating tips or hacks and engage the audience for theirs.

Ten Meters for Techs - Guide to Getting on HF for Newer Hams

9:15 - 10:15 AM in Room 2

Moderated by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

Join Anthony Luscre (K8ZT) for a forum for newly licensed Technicians and Hams of all license classes who have not explored HF operations. This forum will cover the basics in an easy to understand style. We will also provide numerous reference resources for you to utilize after the session. Many newly licensed Technicians limit their operations to FM, VHF, and UHF. Typically, using the local 2m or 440 cm repeaters. Unfortunately, they are missing out on opportunities for worldwide communications on the HF (High Frequency) bands. The HF band with Technician privileges on Voice, Data and CW is 10 meters. Ten meters can be rather fickle, depending on the sunspot cycle, with limited availability during its low points. The good news is that this is not the current situation. Having recently peaked the 11-year cycle, it should continue to provide numerous opportunities for worldwide contacts. But time is limited; in two to three years, we will return to very infrequent and limited 10 meter openings. So the time to get on HF via 10 meters is NOW!

Building a Radio Scouting Committee Lessons Learned

9:15 - 10:15 AM in Room 3

Moderated by Shawn Grubb, KE8BBC

Join Shawn Grubb (KE8BBC) of the Dan Beard Council, Scouting America, and explore how to build and sustain a successful Radio Scouting Committee, an initiative that supports the mission of Scouting America to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. This forum offers practical steps for launching a committee, including recruiting volunteers, partnering with local radio clubs, running engaging activities, and working in alignment with council and unit goals. Drawing on lessons learned from real programs, the session covers both successes and setbacks, highlighting ways amateur radio can strengthen character, citizenship, leadership, and personal fitness in Scouting. Attendees will take away actionable ideas for integrating amateur radio into Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and STEM programs—helping more youth experience adventure and growth, in line with Scouting America's vision.

A Mathematical Proof of How Antenna Tuners Actually Work

9:20 - 10:20 AM in Room 4

Moderated by William 'Corey' Brown, WB0RXQ

In this forum Corey Brown (WB0RXQ) will examine exactly how antenna tuners work. From simple 1/4 wave matching networks to complicated lumped circuit tuner designs, this forum will dive into the realities of signal reflections and re-reflections and will provide a mathematical proof of exactly how an antenna tuner actually presents a 50 ohm load to your station's transceiver.

Parks on the Air 2.0: Preparing for the Next Phase of Growth

10:25 to 11:25 in Room 1

Moderated by Kevin Thomas W1DED

Together, Kevin Thomas (W1DED) and Mike Case (W8MSC) will outline the key improvements in POTA 2.0 and discuss how this next phase of development positions Parks on the Air for sustained global growth and the next generation of amateur radio operators. Over the past year, POTA Developer Lead and Enterprise Architect, James Linden (VE3JLN) has led the development of a comprehensive new version of POTA.app—an architectural evolution designed to support the continued expansion of Parks on the Air, which now includes more than 84,000 registered operators and millions of QSOs annually. This session will be grounded in both history and forward vision. Mike Case (W8MSC), co-founder of Parks on the Air and a driving force behind its original IT development, will reflect on the early technical foundations that allowed POTA to scale from a small program into a global phenomenon. Building on that legacy, POTA 2.0 introduces a modernized, technical framework with improved performance, enhanced data handling, and infrastructure designed for long-term scalability. While preserving the simplicity and accessibility valued by activators and hunters, the new platform significantly strengthens reliability, transparency, and operational resilience behind the scenes.

Big Event Comms: Ham Radio To The Rescue!

10:25 - 11:25 AM in Room 2

Moderated by Chris Perry, KY4CKP

Join Chris Perry (KY4CKP), Brian Perry (KY4BDP), and Mike McRoberts (KY6MM) to learn about Big Event Comms. Rally races all over the world need emergency communications and many times take place outside of cell phone range. Amateur radio fills the void for many races. LCARA was contacted to see if we could (and were interested in providing comms for a new local race. We said YES! There are all kinds of opportunities for radio clubs to use their gear and experience to solve real world problems and be better prepared when disaster strikes.

Teaching a One-Day Tech Class

10:25 - 11:25 AM in Room 3

Moderated by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Join Dan Romanchik (KB6NU) of ARROW, and learn why is it important to teach ham radio classes. He will address why it is better to teach a one-day class instead of a traditional multi-session class, where can you hold the class, publicizing the class, possible fees, timing, teaching techniques, and student follow up.

Raspberry Pi Designs - Easy, Medium, & Hard

10:30 - 11:30 AM in Room 4

Moderated by John Wiseman, WT3J

Join John Wiseman (WT3J) for an in depth examination of The Raspberry Pi series of single-board microcomputers, which offers the radio amateur the ability to easily design and implement sophisticated high-level shack functions on a very low cost platform. This forum will demonstrate some of the capabilities of the Raspberry Pi by describing a trio of Raspberry Pi Microcomputer-Based Amateur Radio Designs - Easy, Medium, & Hard - each with very different applications.

CWops and CW Academy: The Proven Path to CW Mastery in Today's Amateur Radio World		
11:35 AM - 12:35 PM in Room 1		Moderated by Bob Carter, WR7Q
<p>Join Moderator Bob Carter (WR7Q) of the CW Academy as he highlights the history of Morse Code and CWops' CW Academy program, which has helped thousands of operators successfully learn and advance their CW skills through a proven, structured mentoring approach, that has an exceptionally high success rate. Whether you are new to CW, returning after years away, or seeking to elevate your operating proficiency, this session will demonstrate why CW and CWops continues to be relevant and valuable for the Amateur Radio Community. CW is experiencing a global resurgence, driven in part by the explosive growth of programs such as POTA and SOTA. The mode provides efficiency, reliability and performance especially for portable, low-power, and compromise antenna stations. CWops stands at the center of this momentum with a vibrant international community dedicated to advancing CW operating skills, mentoring and on-air excellence.</p>		
3D Printing And Portable Operations - Lighter, Faster, Further		
11:35 AM - 12:35 PM in Room 2		Moderated by Richard Rieben, KE4WLE
<p>Why settle for generic, off-the-shelf equipment when you can produce custom solutions right on your workbench? Richard Rieben (KE4WLE) explores the intersection of the "home-brew" amateur radio spirit and modern additive manufacturing. Richard will begin by demystifying the technology, covering everything from the basic mechanics of FDM printers to selecting the right filaments - like UV-resistant ASA or rugged PETG - that can actually survive the rigors of field use. You'll learn how to navigate the workflow of finding existing designs online and the basics of "slicing" them for a successful print. We will cover the usefulness of 3D printing for portable operations such as POTA and SOTA, where weight and organization are everything. See how 3D printing can revolutionize your portable kit with ultra-lightweight wire winders, antenna components, cases and enclosures, and specialized power solutions. Whether you are looking to de-clutter your desktop shack or shave ounces off your SOTA pack, you will leave with a clear roadmap of how 3D printing can become the most versatile tool in your amateur radio arsenal.</p>		
A Modern Overview of HF Digi-Modes Operation		
11:35 AM - 12:35 PM in Room 3		Moderated by Sholto Fisher, K7TMG
<p>Join Moderator Sholto Fisher (K7TMG) of West Mountain Radio for an introduction to the world of digital mode operation on HF. Learn about what people are actually doing on HF with digital modes in 2026 - not just FT8! The talk will feature the sights (and sounds) of signals you're likely to encounter on the HF bands today.</p>		
Countrywide Black Swan Events		
11:40 AM to 12:40 PM in Room 4		Moderated by Don Rolph, AB1PH
<p>Join Don Rolph (AB1PH) for information on how the NTS digital team has been reviewing approaches for amateur radio to provide support using a severe countrywide Black Swan events. Black Swan events are when both electricity and communications (including internet and satellites) are down for 12 hours or more. The example case is the Spanish outage in April 2025 where electricity and all communications were effectively down for 12 hours, but there are a variety of posited potential causes (CME for one).</p>		