



December 2024

# THE BIG ISLAND HAMGRAM

The newsletter of the Big Island Amateur Radio Club

## BIARC members elect directors, vote on other biz

At our club's semi-annual membership business meeting on Nov. 10, a quorum of BIARC members unanimously elected four directors: Joseph Rosenbaum, WH6JOE, David Miller, KH6CZ, and Thomas Avila, KH6GG, to serve two-year terms, and Shawn Farley, WH6GXZ, a one-year term filling in the last half of the term of Les Hittner, K0BAD, who has resigned from the board.

At the executive board's first meeting of the new year, the directors will choose the officers to govern BIARC in 2025. The rest of the seven-member board includes Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI, Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA, and William Polhemus, NH6ET, the station trustee (a non-elected, non-voting position).

The motion to accept the nominees was made by Les, and seconded by Mark.

In other official business, after periods of related discussion, the members also unanimously approved the following actions:

Moved by Gary Schwiter, seconded by Les, that the club expand APRS coverage at repeater sites, providing that such expan-



## Club's annual holiday potluck set for Dec. 8

The annual BIARC Holiday Potluck Party is set for Sunday, Dec. 8, from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Kamana Senior Center in Hilo. All are invited.

To help coordination of the event, please try

to sign up by Wednesday, Dec. 4, and tell us what you're bringing.

Just visit our invitation page on the online service SignUp:

<https://signup.com/go/hFTaUar>

*Hamgram staff photographers capture fun, candid shots at our 2023 holiday potluck party.*



Continued on Page 5

# Two big ham events for 83rd Pearl Harbor observance

Hawaii is preparing for the 83rd commemoration of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

The 83rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor theme of "Forging Ahead" emphasizes not only the historical significance but also the vital role of the younger generation in preserving and honoring this legacy.

This year's event will take place Dec. 7, 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM HST at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, 1 Arizona Memorial Place, Honolulu, HI. The event will also be live streamed.

ARRL requested, and has received, a waiver from the Federal Communication Commission's Part 97 rules to communicate



**K3NEM**  
**Amateur**  
**Radio Club**  
**of the**  
**National**  
**Electronics**  
**Museum**



with military stations as part of Pearl Harbor Day commemorations December 7 – 8.

ARRL made the request on behalf of the Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association, to allow amateur-military cross-band capabilities to communicate with the Battleship Iowa using the ship's original callsign NEPM.

The USS Iowa is moored at the Port of Los Angeles. Also, the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum (ARCNEM) will hold a Pearl

Harbor Day Commemoration December 1 - 11 from 1300Z - 2200Z. Special event station W2W will operate on 14.241, 14.041, 7.241, and 7.041 MHz. A certificate & QSL will be available.

Primary operation will be December 1 - 7 with additional operation possible during December 8 - 11 as operator availability permits. Operation on 80 meters, 3.541 and 3.841 MHz, and digital modes is possible during event.

## Quarter Century Wireless Association W2MM event under way

Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) is sponsoring its annual W2MM special event station operation, which runs for 7 days beginning December 1, 2024.

Operations will be on the following frequencies and modes: CW: 3.540, 7.035, 14.040, 21.050, and 28.050 MHz; SSB: 3.810, 7.244, 14.262, 21.365, and 28.325 MHz; FT8/FT4: standard frequencies on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. During the event, W2MM will be within 20 kHz of the above frequencies.

QCWA members in the US and its possessions will have an opportunity to activate W2MM for this event. Contact the QCWA Activities Manager for more information and scheduling (address below). Stations activating W2MM must submit their log in an Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) file only to [activitiesmanager@qcwa.org](mailto:activitiesmanager@qcwa.org) by the end of the third week of December. At the end of December, all stations working W2MM will be able to download a commemorative certificate but there will be a 2 - 3-month lead time to access your certificate. For more information, contact John Kludt, K7SYS, at [activitiesmanager@qcwa.org](mailto:activitiesmanager@qcwa.org)

## Utah DX Association is operating K7S special event station to mark amateur radio anniversaries

From December 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025, the Utah DX Association will operate special event station K7S to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the amateur radio stamp and the 110th anniversary of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). K7S will operate on all bands and all modes, focusing on 7.260, 14.260, 21.300, and 28.470 MHz. A QSL card and a free "used" amateur radio stamp will be available. For more information contact [www.udxa.org](http://www.udxa.org) or [www.qrz.com/db/w7wes](http://www.qrz.com/db/w7wes).



## Kids of all ages invited to chat with Santa

Santa Claus will be on the amateur radio airwaves again this year.

The 3.916 Santa Net will be on the air every night at 7:00 PM CST from November 29 through December 24. Reserve a spot with Santa by making a pre-net check in. You can check in each night starting at 6:30 PM CST online at [www.CQSanta.com](http://www.CQSanta.com).



Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be on the air, together, thanks to special arrangements with the [Cowley](#)

[County Amateur Radio Club](#) in Kansas. They will be on the air on the 147.000 repeater and the Sunflower Net system, between 10 AM and noon CST on November 30 and beginning at 10 AM until band conditions change on December 14 and 21. In addition to the local repeater, the [Sunflower Net](#) offers connection options to Allstar, DMR, Dstar, Echolink, Fusion, Hamshack Hotline, M17, and P25. The club is also setting up a radio link at the local library to talk to Santa. A special effort is being made to give children who are hospitalized or otherwise unable to visit personally an opportunity to reach out to Santa.

Also, for the 4th year, Santa has sent Elf Chucky and his team of amateur radio operators to northern Colorado, to help make sure children of all ages can talk to Santa on station NØP from the North Pole. Thanks to the [Longmont Amateur Radio Club](#) and the [Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club](#), children can get into the holiday spirit by talking to Santa on the radio. Both are ARRL Affiliated Clubs. Get the details on that operation at <https://w0eno.org/santa>.

## Introducing the Hawaii Meshtastic Initiative

To encourage growth in the Big Island mesh network, a group of local hams has launched an effort to encourage others to join in this intriguing and multifaceted venture into the relatively new, and constantly advancing, amateur radio technology.

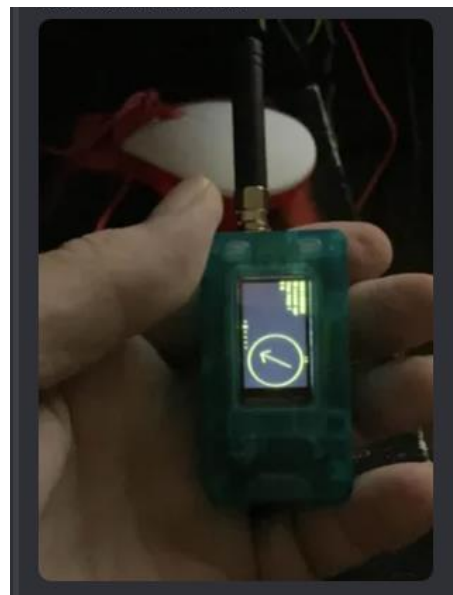
Some members of the loosely formed group are working on components for the various processes that will be available for purchase by interested hams.

"We're open for suggestions," said Shawn Farley, WH6GXZ, one of the coordinators. "And any money made will be used to develop the Hawaii Meshtastic Initiative."

"I have a list of parts I'm developing for mesh servers to play different roles," he explained.

"The idea also is to provide a turn-key solution with a quality tested build. I can't compete against China if you're going to build your own. This option is for those who want to just 'OPERATE the device.' A custom-built to spec: You pick out the hardware and I'll build it to work on our network. How much money do you want to spend? A classic HAM conflict!"

Check out the channel **#meshtastic** on the BIARC Discord site: <https://discord.com/invite/ReeBwXut>





## Big Island Amateur Radio Club (Presenting)

### Welcome to BIARC Discord's 'show-off-your-projects' text channel ...

# show-off-your-projects



WH6GXZ nurse dude 10/09/2024 1:56 PM

Got my new antistatic pad in very cool waiting on a soldering gun. This is my building bench then I have my radio bench and then a few servers. I'm not a geek right 😊 show me yours I've shown you some of mine



WH6GXZ shows setup of his work table during one of his meshtastic projects. BIARC Discord offers an ever-growing list of text and voice channels. Visit the site and learn something, teach something, ask a question, answer a question, collaborate and converse with folks of similar interests in some aspect(s) of the radioactive life.

## There's always something new — or old — on BIARC Discord

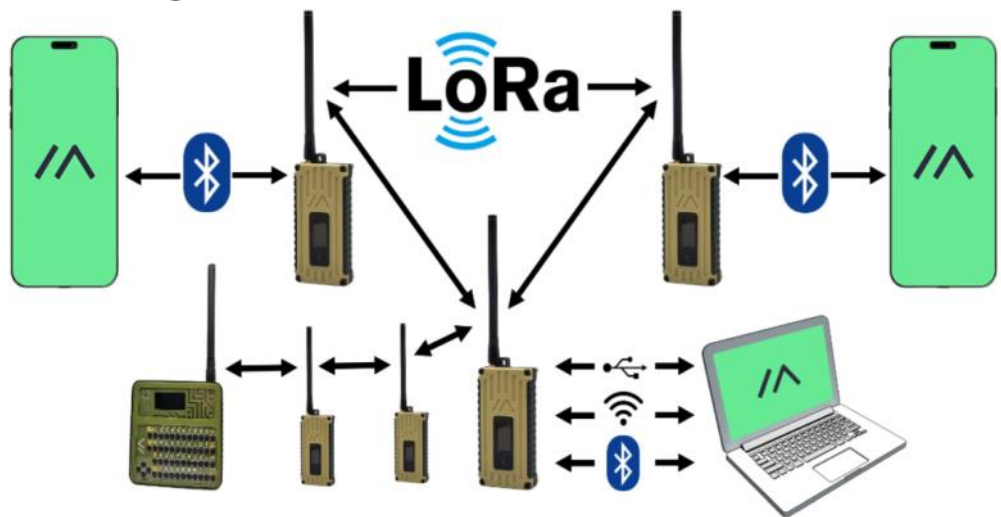
There's lots of radioactivity on BIARC's Discord site. Just log on to <https://discord.com/invite/ReeBwXut>

There are text and voice channels. You can chat person to person, and/or get involved in group discussions about just about any subject pertaining to the world of ham radio.

When you join, you'll be able to introduce new topics to reach out to others of similar interests. Got a project you'd like to show the others? Show it off.

Need help with a project? Someone just might be able to answer your questions, or steer you in the right direction.

There's an events calendar, and ongoing discussions on such fronts as analysis of a specific radio's inner workings, analog and digital units, fox-hunting, POTA (Parks on the Air events), antennas, QRP, classes, licensing, and many, many more, with cate-



gories being added all of the time.

One very active text discussion channel involves meshtastic, a project that enables you to use inexpensive LoRa radios as a long range off-grid communication platform in areas without existing or reliable communications infrastructure. This project is 100% community driven and open source. ([meshtastic.org](https://meshtastic.org)).

These radios are designed to re-broadcast messages they receive, forming a mesh network.

This setup ensures that every group member, including those at the farthest distance, can receive messages.

Coordinators invite all hams to log on to the BIARC Discord site and see what's up.



# BIARC members elect

From Page 1

sion will not impact voice repeater function; matter to be referred to the BIARC Digital Systems Committee.

Moved by Gary, seconded by Luke McKay, WH6GRW, that the club explore possibility of installing 900 megahertz meshtastic repeater technology at BIARC repeater sites. This would fall under FCC Part 15 rules. It would support emcomms, education and outreach and would be for general use.

Moved by Leigh Critchlow, WH6LC, and seconded by Les, that BIARC Board investigate cost of acquiring, for the club, our own microphone system such as the one we sometimes borrow from William. If cost is acceptable, then board will purchase said equipment for use at club functions.

## ~ 2024 BIARC Roster ~

### Executive Board officers and committee chairs

#### President

Thomas Avila, KH6GG

#### Vice President

Les Hittner, K0BAD

#### Secretary

Joseph Rosenbaum, WH6JOE

#### Treasurer

Tony Kitchen, WH6DVI

#### At-Large directors

Mark Watanabe, WH6FSA, and

David Miller, KH6CZ

#### KH6EJ station custodian

William Polhemus, NH6ET

#### Public Service/ Communications Committee

Chair Les Hittner, K0BAD

### Operating Activities Committee

Chair Joseph Rosenbaum, WH6JOE

### Education and

### Outreach Committee

Chair David Miller, KH6CZ

### Programs Committee

Chair Les Hittner, K0BAD

### Digital Systems Committee

Chair Shawn Farley, WH6GXZ

### Voice Repeaters Committee

Chair William Polhemus, NH6ET

### Meeting Refreshments Committee

Chair Robert Schneider, AH6J


### BIARC Hamgram

Editor Leigh Critchlow, WH6LC

**Club website:** <https://biarc.net>

The BIARC channel on  
Youtube is: [https://  
www.youtube.com/  
@BigIslandAmateurRadio-  
Club](https://www.youtube.com/@BigIslandAmateurRadio-Club)

# Monthly Siren Test Report for December 2, 2024

Location	Observer	Mode	Status	Notes
NOT WORKING				
Ainaloa (HA910)	WH6DVI	Mauna Kea	Not Working	only rotates, no sound
HOVE, #1 Leilani (HA805)	KH6FA	Allstar	Not Working	
Kolekole (HA112)	KH6RDO	Allstar	Not Working	
Ainaloa (HA910)	WH6HAF	Allstar	Not Working	
WORKING				
Banyan / Kam (HA104)	KH6ATU	Allstar	Working	
Captain Cook (HA702)	WH6WF	Text	Working	
Carvalho Park (HA114)	NH6WT	Email	Working	
Hakalau (HA113)	WH6ECX	Allstar	Working	
Hawaiian Beaches Park #1 (HA907)	KH7LM	Text	Working	
Honomu (HA111)	KH6RDO	Allstar	Working	
HOVE Shopping Center #2 (HA806)	KH7MS	Email	Working	
HPP #2 4th & Awapuhi (HA912)	WH6HAA	Mauna Kea	Working	
HPP #1 Paradise / Ala Kai (HA925)	KH6CZ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Kawaihae Harbor (HA407)	WH6EHJ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Kehana Beach (HA916)	KH6AQ	Text	Working	
Laupahoehoe Lookout (HA201)	WH6FSE	Allstar	Working	
Laupahoehoe Point (HA202)	WH6FSI	Allstar	Working	
NELHA Kona (HA611)	WH6GTD	Allstar	Working	
Ookala (HA304)	WH6GDC	Allstar	Working	
Pahala (HA804)	WH7BR	Allstar	Working	
Puako General Store #1 (HA405)	WH6EHJ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Punaluu /.Sea Mountain (HA803)	AJ0T	Allstar	Working	
State Building (HA116)	WH6HC	Email	Working	
Waa Waa (HA937)	NH7PE	Text	Working	
Waiaka Bridge Kamuela (HA402)	WH6EHJ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Waikaumalo Park Ninole (HA123)	WH6FIQ	Allstar	Working	
Waimea Park Kamuela (HA401)	WH6EHJ	Mauna Kea	Working	
Banyan / Kam (HA104)	WH6HC	Email	Working	
Paukaa (HA115)	AH6JA	Email	Working	





Inovato founder Michael Burmeister-Brown.

## Inovato closing soon due to founder's illness



Inovato.com will close soon due to the illness of founder Michael Burmeister-Brown, and after that the popular plug-and-play HamClock appliance will no longer be available in a Quadra, a nifty little computer that delivers the fine gray line map created by Elwood Downey, although hams still will be able to build their own units using a Raspberry Pi.

On Nov. 17, he posted on the Inovato website:

**"UPDATE: WE ARE MASSIVELY BACKLOGGED WITH OVER 400 HUNDRED ORDERS IN THE 16 HOURS SINCE ANNOUNCING OUR CLOSURE. SHIPPING WILL BE SLOW AS WE CAN ONLY MAKE AND SHIP 25-30 PER DAY. BUT WE SHOULD GET THEM ALL SHIPPED BEFORE YEAR END. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.**

"I have been fighting pancreatic cancer in recent months, which has now spread to my lungs. The treatment schedule and my energy level require me to close Inovato in a few weeks.

"My family is helping get final Quadras built and orders shipped.

"I wanted to let as many people as possible know as this will be the last opportunity to purchase Quadras and accessories before it closes. As long as the store accepts your order, they will get shipped. I

apologize in advance if I am a bit slower than normal getting orders out.

"I can only directly email customers who have opted in to receive emails, so please let other hams who have Quadras or might want one know.

"It has been an honor and pleasure to help bring the fantastic HamClock by Elwood Downey to more hams. I am sorry this plug-and-play HamClock appliance will come to an end. But remember you can always make your own using a Raspberry Pi. [See the excellent tutorial by G6NHU for step by step instructions.](#)"

73,  
Michael

P.S. I release all support content and the Quadra Restore Image to the community.

Our Quadra PC bundle featuring the fantastic HamClock by Elwood Downey gives you everything you need to run HamClock (will always auto-update to the latest) on a 1080p or higher resolution TV or monitor. Includes the Quadra PC, a mini wireless keyboard/trackpad, HDMI cable, ham-friendly USB power adapter, custom stand, our quiet fan with a short cable, and a USB hub for a neat, small-footprint and cooler-running installation.

On first boot, the inovato Quadra PC will ask if you want to startup HamClock on boot, and if you'd like it to run full screen (no black borders on the sides). It will do all the configuration for you so no need to create or edit startup files, change resolutions, etc.

Our HamClock Setup automatically enables HamClock's "Live Spots" feature so you can see where bands are currently active at your DE.

"All you have to do is enter your callsign and location on first run and everything else will just work. And once set up, you can [view your HamClock in a browser](#) on any PC, tablet, phone or smart TV in your local network.

All our standard Ham software is also installed, so simply pressing ALT-F11 will take HamClock out of full screen mode so you can run other apps like WSJT-X, fIDigi, or QDMR. And our Ham apps installer is always ready to install more or update already installed apps.

While you wait for your order to arrive, we recommend watching the [fantastic video by Jim Heath](#) if you haven't already. You can also preview the [QuickStart Guide](#).

\* inovato is not affiliated with any of the ham software listed. HamClock is a product of Elwood Downey, WB0OEW, [Clear Sky Institute](#).



WH6FSA photo

Hamming it up at the annual BIARC Field Day June 22 at Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Park in Hilo! From left, foreground: KH6DLK, WH6GXZ and WH6JOE; in back: AH6EI, KH6CZ, WH6EPS, and WH6GWL.

## Here are Hawaii's Field Day results

*Provided by KH6RDO:*

Enclosed are the 2024 ARRL Field Day results. The results published in QST are classes 1A to 1C, which is emergency field operations.

The home commercial, home emergency power, and EOC centers are listed in the final line scoresheet.

Here are the stations in Hawaii that submitted logs and any club affiliations.

Class 1A KH6E, Kauai for Kauai ARC, 2624 pts.

Class 1A KH6CF, Oahu for EARC, 550 pts.

Class 1A KH6Z, South Kona for South Point ARC, 1006 pts.

Class 3A KH6RS, Maui for Maui ARC, 3493 pts.

Class 1B, WH6GZH, Oahu, for Oneula Expedition, 934 pts.

Class 1B NH6O, Oahu, 360 pts.

Class 1B KD7UXT/kh6, 62 pts.

Class 1B KH6AQ, Puna, 4554 pts.

Class 1B AH7RF, Kawaihae, 580 pts

Class 1C NH7IT, Oahu, 55 pts.

Class 1D KH6RDO, Hilo, for BIARC, 1338 pts.

Class 1D AA7LE, Waikoloa, 298 pts.

Class 1D KH6ML, Oahu, 72 pts

Class 1E WH6CMO, Oahu, 446 pts.

Class 1E KH6DC, Oahu, 362 pts.

Class 1F KH6UL, Oahu, for Nctams pac, 886 pts.

## Classifieds

### For Sale

Ameritron AL-80B HF Kilowatt Amplifier

Single 3-500Z tube

160 > 12 meters.....not sure if it has 10 but I'll check.

Manual

Currently wired for 110 volts

From SK, VE7AHA

Nice desktop amp

\$800.00

cash, no trades.

Contact: Lloyd, KH6LC, 808-333-6555

[KH6LC@Hotmail.com](mailto:KH6LC@Hotmail.com)



## Draft minutes

# BIARC Executive Board Regular Meeting

November 10, 2024  
Kamana Senior Center

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 pm by Board President Thomas Avila. A quorum of 6 board members were present.

### Attendance:

Board members: Thomas Avila, Les Hittner, Tony Kitchen, David Miller, Mark Watanabe and Joseph Rosenbaum.

### Secretary's Report and Minutes:

Tony moved and Les seconded to approve the October 2024 secretary's report. Motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

See attached. Les moved and Mark seconded to approve the treasurer's report, subject to audit. Motion passed.

### Committee reports:

**Digital Systems:** Discussion was held on the Meshtastic, AllStar Link and APRS(Automatic Packet Reporting System) technologies. Plans for a 2025 budget were discussed.

### Education and Outreach:

See report. Discussion was held on ideas for school events. Discussion was held on using club funds to purchase equipment for school events. The need for operators to get on the Kulani Cone and other repeaters for school events, to talk to the students was also emphasized. The Museum of Science and Technology has welcomed us back for 2025 with several events already scheduled.

### Operating Activities:

A survey of the membership will be conducted to find out what type of activities they are interested in to plan for 2025.

**Programs:** No report. Today will be the membership meeting and elections.

### Public Service Communications:

Discussion was held on contacting sponsoring organizations for marathons and other events to offer our services of radio communication for these types of events.

### Voice Repeaters:

No report.

### Old business:

Club battery board update: Thomas has repaired the board.

### New business:

**Standup nominations committee:** There are four board director positions available and four members are running to fill these positions. The incumbents are: Thomas Avila, David Miller and Joseph Rosenbaum. Shawn Farley will be running as a first time candidate.

Thomas moved and Tony seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Rosenbaum, WH6JOE  
Board secretary

# BIARC among the community partners who help make 'Ohana Science Nights a big hit



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SUZANNE M.I. OCHI  
PRINCIPAL



KEITH T. HARASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
WAIKAEAWAENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
2420 Kilauea Ave.  
Hilo, HI 96720

November 21, 2024

Dear Community Partner,

Thank you for your participation in our 'Ohana Science Night on November 15, 2024. We had almost 300 students and family members participate in the event. We also welcomed over fifteen community partners who wowed, taught, and entertained our keiki with their informative and interesting activities. We even enjoyed a special performance from a local children's chorus! The gym was full of smiles and looks of wonder throughout the night. It was a joy to see the students engaged in meaningful conversations and activities, all while having a blast!

We received a great deal of positive feedback from the students, their parents, and the staff. Thank you for making the event a fun and engaging experience for all. We truly believe that partnerships with the community are fundamental for student success and for the success of our community as a whole, so thank you again.

We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Thank you,

  
Suzanne M.I. Ochi  
Principal

  
Melissa Harmeling  
PCNC

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## ARRL announces testing updates for hams preparing to take Extra and General licensing exams

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (**NCVEC**) Question Pool Committee (**QPC**) has removed one Extra Class pool question and one General Class pool question from use.

Both Extra pool question E2A13 and General pool question G8C01 have been deleted from use on examinations as the two questions each have more than one correct answer.

The deleted questions must be removed from examinations as soon as possible.

Updated question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC Extra Class question pool web page at [www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release](http://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release).

The current Element 4 Extra question pool be-

came effective on July 1, 2024, and it is valid through June 30, 2028.

Updated General Class question pool files, also including the errata and new information, have been posted on the NCVEC General Class question pool web page at [www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release](http://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release). The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027.

The **ARRL VEC** advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at [www.ncvec.org](http://www.ncvec.org) for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.



# SKYWARN Recognition Day set for December 7

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) is December 7, 2024. The annual event is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

SRD was established in 1999 by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL® to commemorate the contributions of SKYWARN volunteers.

Using amateur radio and other means of communication, SKYWARN spotters provide real time ground truth to NWS offices. The ham-volunteers can also provide vital communications between NWS and local emergency management officials when other means go down.

In a video posted to the SRD web page, National Weather Service Director Ken Graham, WX4KEG, said the information ham radio operators and other SKYWARN volunteers provide is critical.

"I, along with the entire National Weather Service, want to acknowledge and thank you for your invaluable service to the communities we serve."

There will be a SRD special event from 0000 – 2359 UTC on the day. The objective is for all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotters and National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2-meter and



70-centimeter bands.

ARRL will be on the air during the event from the ARRL Radio Laboratory station, W1HQ, using the call sign WX1AW.

ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, said SRD is a great opportunity to welcome non-ham SKYWARN volunteers to explore amateur radio.

"Storm spotting was my original draw into ham radio. I watched a large tornado tear up my community on May 3, 1999, and was listening via my mom's 2-meter mobile radio to spotter reports being relayed to the NWS Norman, Oklahoma, office.

"I knew I wanted to be a part of that and within months I was licensed. Amateur radio was my path into that community service and has been the hobby of a lifetime ever since," she said.

ARRL has a web page to help those interested with getting licensed. Find details at [www.arrl.org/getting-licensed](http://www.arrl.org/getting-licensed).

Spotters are encouraged to register for SRD at [www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition](http://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition).

There will be participation certificates available after the event.