



ARRL Rhode Island Section



Section News

January 2026

[ARRL Rhode Island Section](#)

This is our first Section News using the ARRL RI Google Groups distro. Please feel free to send ideas for content, news, or general feedback to arrlrhodeislandsection@gmail.com. ARRL Rhode Island Section News is published the first week of each month (starting February 2026). Section Coordinator reports and other content must be received by the first of each month to be included in that month's news.

[Click here to subscribe](#) to the Rhode Island Section News email distro.

Section Manager Update

First, I want to thank Nancy Austin, KC1NEK, for her leadership as Rhode Island Section Manager over the last couple of years. There is a lot going on in the Rhode Island Section – great clubs, top notch contest stations, new ARES leadership, active SKYWARN participation, just to name a few. The Section Manager role can be challenging and demanding. Thank you, Nancy, for all your work on behalf of Rhode Island radio amateurs.

I'm not going to go into great detail with a bio, you are welcome to look me up on QRZ or on my webpage to learn more about me. I'd rather focus on what I bring to the Rhode Island Section as the newly appointed Section Manager.



To start, I have a good understanding of the ARRL Field Organization. Over the course of my Amateur Radio career, I've served as an Emergency Coordinator, Volunteer Examiner, award checker for DXCC and WAS, Public Information Coordinator, and Assistant Section Manager. I spent about nine years working at ARRL HQ as the Emergency Preparedness Manager and contributed to the Section Manager workshops. I've also written for QST, the ARES E-Letter, was lead author on Storm Spotting and Amateur Radio, editor for The Public Service Communications Handbook, and contributor to the ARRL Operators Manual.

My approach to Amateur Radio focuses on three areas:

- Get on the air
- Be a mentor
- Try something new, experiment

We enjoy a hobby that provides us with a tremendous amount of spectrum. If we don't use it, we lose it; we sink or swim together regardless of our individual pursuits in Amateur Radio. "What are we doing to bring new blood into the hobby", well this starts with you. Share your knowledge, experience and passion for radio with others. Amateur Radio constantly challenges us to learn and grow, which is good! Make the most of it.

Finally, I firmly believe if we have folks in the Rhode Island Section who are doing good work – in clubs, with ARES, with contests, POTA, or any other pursuit – we need to encourage them to keep going! It's easy to be an arm chair quarterback, it's also pointless. Go for the extra effort and support the many ways we do Amateur Radio in the Ocean State.

Here are my initial goals as incoming Section Manager:

- Improved Section Communications
 - Updates and improvements to the RI Section website
 - Regular Section News emails
 - Improved information management for Section leadership
 - Regular meetings with field organization leadership
 - Two Rhode Island Section general meetings - February and August
- Encourage Rhode Island radio amateurs to be active this year in a wide range of events:
 - ARRL 250th WAS
 - 13 Colonies Special Event
 - Year of the Club
 - World Cup 2026

- Boston area event opportunities (Boston Marathon, Sail Boston, Head of the Charles)
- 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season
- Local 250th events
- Transition work for Section Leadership
 - Adjust field organization appointments to meet current needs
 - Recruit for vacancies at the Section level (SGL, SYC, PIC)
 - Develop field organization leadership
 - Prepare the Section for future leadership

It is an honor to be appointed to this position, and I look forward to working with you all in support of Amateur Radio in Rhode Island.

73,

Mike Corey, KI1U

ARRL Rhode Island Section Manager

ki1u@arrl.org

Section Traffic Coordinator Update

Greetings All,

[STM Report](#)

Holiday season is upon us and I have noticed an uptick in the number of holiday greeting radiograms. Have you sent yours? Many seem to be taking advantage of the new book traffic provision on the Radiogram Portal. You might give that a try. Also for those delivering holiday greetings take note of the holiday radiogram form on the NTS2 website at <https://nts2.arrl.org/arrl-rri-form-christmas-radiogram-2025/>. These forms can be filled out online, downloaded and saved as a PDF file on your computer and then sent as attachments via email to the recipient. Or they can be printed out and mailed. Spread a little holiday cheer and show friends and families this unique service by amateur radio. Help spread the word that amateur radio is still alive and well.

The December NTS Letter included an article on updated handling instructions. Here are a few points in case you missed it.

- HXA has been changed since collect toll calls are a thing of the past. Instead it states that delivery via email and/or text message is preferred. Telephone calls used to be the preferred method of delivery, but as we know, this too often no longer works.
- HXG, a commonly used handling instruction, has been reworded and now notes that if postage or other expense is involved, one MAY cancel the message and send a SERVICE MESSAGE to the ORIGINATING STATION (that's the one whose call sign is in the preamble). However it is often beneficial to pay the postage and send a copy through the postal system. (Ask Shawn, N1CVO, about that.)
- HXC is another commonly used handling instruction but one that has unfortunately been most often ignored. It now has some added clarification with regard to responsibility for a reply when a message is sent directly to the message recipient via RF, such as on a traffic net. This raised questions in the past, particularly when messages were retrieved from a message board (MBO/BBS). In this case it is the recipient who responds to the originating station.
- There is also clarification regarding the HXD which makes it easier to comply using an ARL Ninety Four numbered radiogram.
- Three new handling instructions have been added, HXI and HXR used with emergency traffic, and HXT which will be used with messages being sent as part of performance testing. More on these at a later date.

I want to wish all you wonderful traffic handlers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

73, Marcia KW1U
Section Traffic Manager

Welcome to New RI Section Appointees

Adam Paul, KC1KCC – Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator

Michael Rousseau, KC1NEJ – District Emergency Coordinator/Emergency Coordinator

Jed Barton, N1JBC - Technical Specialist

Vacant Section Level Positions

Are you interested in serving in a volunteer leadership position in the Rhode Island Section? There are a few positions we're looking to fill. Click the link for a description of the position. If you are interested, please reach out to [Mike, K11U](#)

Section Youth Coordinator - The Section Youth Coordinator maintains a current assessment of active youth amateur radio operators in the section including those involved in clubs, Scouting and other youth organizations and schools.

[State Government Liaison](#)

[Public Information Coordinator](#)

In addition to these field organization positions, we're also looking for a newsletter editor. If you would like to lend a hand getting ARRL Rhode Island Section news out, please let Mike know.

New Hams and Upgrades

Congratulations to the following on earning your Amateur Radio license:

Alexa Darche, KC1YOO - North Scituate
Christopher Grivers, KC1YMZ - North Providence
Anthony Thompson, KC1YMO - Cranston
Joseph Ditraglia, KC1YOB - Cranston
Michael J Bombard, KC1YRX - North Kingstown
Amber D Debole, KC1YSU - Woonsocket
Joseph Dimascio, KC1YSB - Providence
Mitchell Farren, KC1YSC - North Providence
Jonathan C Zerbus, KC1YTA - Middletown

Congratulations on the following for upgrading your Amateur Radio license:

John T Lamberton, KC1YAK - Jamestown
W Tim Blake, KC1GIF - Cranston

(New license reports issued in December 2025 and January 2026)

Get Involved

This is a busy year for Amateur Radio! There are the usual activities we have in Southern New England - Boston Marathon, 13 Colonies, Atlantic hurricane season, Head of the Charles Regatta, Field Day - just to name a few. Additionally this year we have a tall ships event in Boston, 250th celebrations, ARRL 250th WAS (including 2 W1AW/1 events in RI), ARRL Year of the Club, and World Cup 2026. Look for more information on these events in upcoming ARRL RI Section news. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved this year.

Boston Marathon 2026

The registration window is open for volunteers for the 2026 Boston Marathon. In 2025 over 280 Amateur Radio operators assisted with marathon communications. Operators were working at virtually every location connected with the race, including the starting line, the entire course, the finish line, transportation, and various operations centers including the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the State EOC Unified Command Center (UCC), and the BAA Race Operations Center (ROC) in Boston. Combined, they perform communications duties that include logistics support as a primary function and backup support for medical and other public safety requests for the race as needed.

You can learn more about volunteering here

<https://www.baa.org/races/boston-marathon/info-for-volunteers/>

Winter Field Day



Winter Field Day is an exciting annual event for amateur radio enthusiasts, taking place on the last full weekend of January. It offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations, enabling them to connect with other participants worldwide. You may choose to participate solo or get your your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is organized by the Winter Field Day Association. The association strongly believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns.

The Winter Field Day event aims to help participants improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities in adverse conditions. Amateur radio operators have the freedom to use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands while employing voice, CW, and digital transmissions. The event designates specific objectives to encourage a diverse range of activities, including the use of non-commercial power sources, the deployment of multiple antennas, establishing satellite contacts, and more. Click [here](#) to read more about the history and purpose of winter field day.

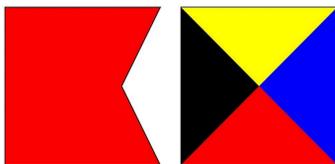
For more information see <https://winterfieldday.org/>

New England Hamfests

Date	Location	Hamfest	Link
January 17, 2026	Whitman, MA	Winterfest 2026	www.wa1npo.org
February 14, 2026	Marlborough, MA	Algonquin ARC Flea Market	www.n1em.org
February 28, 2026	Colchester, VT	HAM-CON VT Section Convention	www.ham-con.org

You can use the [hamfest and convention calendar search](#) on the ARRL website for more information and to search other areas of the country.

Bravo Zulu!



BRAVO

ZULU

We want to recognize the accomplishments of radio amateurs in the ARRL Rhode Island section. Want to brag about an accomplishment? Want to recognize another ham for something? Please let us know, email the Section Manager with the details - ki1u@arrl.org.

ARRL Rhode Island Section Leadership			
Name	Callsign	Position	Email
Mike Corey	K11U	Section Manager	ki1u@arrl.org
Jeremy Taylor	K1JST	Section Emergency Coordinator/Assistant Section Manager	k1jst@taysol.net
John Brewer	N1SXB	Affiliated Club Coordinator	n1sxb.jb@gmail.com
David Neal	W2DAN	Technical Coordinator	w2dan@cox.net
Marcia Ford	KW1U	Section Traffic Manager	kw1u@comcast.net

If you have something to contribute to the Rhode Island Section newsletter, please send it to Mike Corey, ki1u@arrl.org