



HIGH COUNTRY “Static”

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On the Air

“Get Together on Rimlink”

Mondays @ 19:30 (Arizona time)

147.14 MHz

Mt Elden Rimlink Repeater

CARC ARES/SKYWARN Net

Wednesdays @ 19:00 (Arizona time)

146.98 MHz

Mt Elden ARA Repeater

2026 Coconino Amateur Radio Club Public Service Events

Coconino Amateur Radio Club provides critical communication support for several community events throughout the year. Volunteers are always needed! Please contact info@cocoradio.org for more information

	Date	Event	Coordinator
	June 3, 2026	Sacred Mountain Prayer Run	Dan Shearer, N7YIQ
	August 8, 2026	Big Brother/Big Sister Half Marathon	Jeff Thomson – KK7ZGY Joe Hobart – W7LUX
	Sept 19-20, 2026	Stagecoach 100	To Be Determined

About Coconino Amateur Radio Club

The Coconino Amateur Radio Club (CARC) is a non-profit organization devoted to providing communication services to local volunteer agencies and events and Emergency Communications services for Flagstaff Arizona, Coconino County and the state of Arizona.

We meet monthly on the second Thursday of every month at 19:00 Arizona time, except December. The meetings are open to all licensed amateur radio operators, prospective amateur radio operators or anybody interested in learning more about amateur radio and what we do as a club.

Come Join Us!

CARC ARES Report

Joe Hobart (W7LUX) reported 45 total hours for December, including on-air exercises, and nets. SKYWARN Recognition Day was canceled and is uncertain for 2026.

Glen is conducting a weekly ARES net in Williams. Joe commented that Coconino ARES has some new participants: W7HWK in Happy Jack, and KM7DLI. The club agreed to create a separate roster list for ARES members who are not club members, and to include them on our email distribution list.

Note: Prospective ARES members need to complete the FEMA Independent Study courses IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800 if they expect to be at the Coconino EOC. The courses are available at <https://training.fema.gov/is/> (Just click on the Independent Study link)

CARC Club Business Corner


Club Changes and Future Direction:

- The club will continue as it is regarding constitutional structure, retaining the elected officer positions enumerated within the constitution
- The CARC board will be acting collectively as ‘President’, but the club is open for candidates interested in the position
- The club's focus will be two-fold: Public Service and Emergency Communications
- With the club focus on Emergency Communications and Public Services, CARC is transforming to include various communications modes and methods, such as GMRS, various digital modes, Starlink communications access, and open to other communication methods that could augment our club duties in these areas
- **Upcoming Events:** The club will support three public service events in 2026. We must get the Dates/Times of these events on calendar in January to secure long term commitments for participation, and event coordinators must be assigned. No commitment to provide communications support for any event will be made until a full roster of licensed participants is confirmed and necessary equipment secured.

Please review the January 2026 Meeting Minutes at www.cocoradio.org website for more details

Upcoming 2026 Events

2026 is a special year with major anniversaries and events for ham radio operators!

	<p>ARRL 2026 Year of the Club</p> <p>ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is launching a year-long celebration that puts the spotlight squarely where it belongs — on radio clubs. Beginning January 1, 2026, ARRL officially recognizes the Year of the Club, an initiative designated by the ARRL Board of Directors to honor the vital role clubs play in sustaining, growing, and energizing amateur radio.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2026 is ARRL’s Year of the Club -- A Celebration of Amateur Radio Clubs</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Route 66 Centennial - 100 Years!</p> <p>2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Route 66! Expect expanded Route 66 On The Air activities in September with special stations along the historic route from Chicago to Santa Monica. Northern Arizona will be well-represented with stations in Williams, Flagstaff, and other Route 66 towns.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Event typically runs mid-September 2026</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Winter Field Day</p> <p>2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Route 66! Expect expanded Route 66 On The Air activities in September with special stations along the historic route from Chicago to Santa Monica. Northern Arizona will be well-represented with stations in Williams, Flagstaff, and other Route 66 towns.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Event typically runs mid-September 2026</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">2026 STEM Celebration</p> <p>The STEM Celebration serves as an opportunity for Flagstaff residents to explore the dynamic world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).</p> <p>Through hands-on activities, engaging demonstrations, and insightful conversations, attendees will be immersed in a day full of educational and career opportunities within STEM fields while celebrating Flagstaff’s title as “America’s First STEM Community.” Flagstaff STEM City invites everyone to join in this celebration of knowledge, innovation, and community collaboration.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Save the Date: April 25, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Event Time: 1:00–4:00 p.m.</p>	

Overview: Sacred Mountain Prayer Run

The Northern Arizona running community has cultivated three extraordinary events that serve purposes far beyond athletic competition. Each race carries deep cultural, historical, or social significance while fostering community connections in the high country. Amateur radio operators have supported these events for decades, providing critical communications infrastructure that ensures participant safety and event success.

We will explore the historical origins, cultural importance, and community impact of the three distinctive Flagstaff-area running events the Coconino ARC supports: the Sacred Mountain Prayer Run, the Stagecoach 100 Mile Run, and the Big Brothers Big Sisters Dave McKay Memorial Half Marathon. Together, they represent a remarkable tapestry of spiritual tradition, historical commemoration, and social service—all woven into the fabric of northern Arizona's running culture.

Sacred Mountain Prayer Run Origins and History:

The Sacred Mountain Prayer Run was founded in 1983, making it one of Flagstaff's longest-running annual events. The race was initiated by Native Americans for Community Action (NACA) and members of the Flagstaff community who recognized the need to create a bridge between urban Native Americans and their cultural traditions.

Steve Darden, who served as director of NACA 25 years ago, was one of the key figures responsible for beginning the prayer run tradition. The event was born from a recognition that "urban native people sometimes feel disenfranchised from their reservations and family there," as Darden explained. The prayer run was created to address this disconnect and provide a way for Native people living in Flagstaff to maintain connections to their spiritual traditions and cultural identity.

For 36 years, from 1983 to 2019, the Sacred Mountain Prayer Run served as a fundraising event for NACA's Supportive Services programs, which provide emergency and direct support services for the Flagstaff community. In 2022, NACA made a significant decision to return the Prayer Run as a community event, shifting its focus from fundraising to pure cultural celebration and community building.

Cultural and Spiritual Significance:

The Sacred Mountain Prayer Run is fundamentally different from typical running events because its foundation rests on ancient Indigenous spiritual practices. The event is rooted in the tradition of running with prayer, most often performed in the early morning hours. In many Native American cultures, running serves as both a physical and spiritual practice—a moving meditation that connects the runner to the earth, the ancestors, and the sacred.

The San Francisco Peaks, which provide the backdrop for the event, hold profound sacred significance for thirteen Indigenous nations in the Southwest, including the Diné (Navajo), Hualapai, Hopi, Southern Paiute, Havasupai, Yavapai, Zuni, Acoma, and several Apache tribes. For the Diné, the Peaks (Dookó'ooslííd) represent the western sacred mountain, one of four mountains that bound the traditional Navajo homeland of Dinétah. The Hopi know them as Nuva'tukya'ovi, meaning "place-of-snow-on-the-very-top." These mountains are not merely geographical features but living spiritual entities central to ceremonial practices, origin stories, and daily life.

The peaks play a vital role in medicinal and ceremonial practices. Healers visit the mountains to collect soil and materials for medicine bundles and to renew spiritual powers. A comprehensive study identified five flora families with 73 medicinal uses and 1,367 applications across the thirteen tribes who hold the peaks sacred. The study concluded: "With two-thirds of the plant families and close to 30 percent of the total flora for the San Francisco Peaks having ceremonial or medicinal significance to native tribes, this area is clearly a vital natural resource."

The Prayer Stick Runner:

A unique and deeply meaningful aspect of the Sacred Mountain Prayer Run is the role of the Prayer Stick Runner. This individual carries the Prayer Stick not to compete or be timed, but to run in reverence. The Prayer Stick Runner prays for the needs and wellness of all runners, for people who are in need of good health, for Mother Earth, for the four-legged animals, and for the winged ones. This tradition embodies the spiritual heart of the event—running as prayer, not as competition.

Community Impact and Unity:

As Steve Darden observed, "People come together and run together—and we grow connections that are so good." The Sacred Mountain Prayer Run creates a space where people of all backgrounds can participate in a tradition that honors Flagstaff's Native American heritage and history while promoting physical, spiritual, emotional, and social wellness.

The event seeks to bring all participating communities together in observation of values centered on cultural, communal, spiritual, emotional, and physical balance and unity. The synergy of running and spirituality reinforces deep community ties that carry throughout the year, extending the event's impact far beyond a single day in June.

The race is intentionally inclusive—the Sacred Mountain Prayer Run is open to everyone, regardless of background. This openness reflects a generous spirit of sharing cultural traditions while maintaining their sacred significance. Participants from across Arizona and beyond come to experience this unique event, many learning for the first time about the struggles of Native American tribes to protect the San Francisco Peaks and preserve their spiritual connection to this sacred landscape.

For over four decades, the Sacred Mountain Prayer Run has stood as "one of Flagstaff, Arizona's longest running events," representing the intersection of physical, spiritual, emotional, and social wellness. It continues to serve as a powerful reminder that running can be more than sport—it can be prayer, community, and cultural preservation woven together.

CARC Member Spotlight

Coming Soon!

We will be Spotighting members of the Coconino Amateur Radio Club throughout the year. This is a great way to meet our members and their achievements and get to know our members better. If you have anyone you would like to nominate for this Spotlight, please email info@cocradio.org with your suggestions

“Hamming it Up” – Ham Humor



73 from the High Country!

Next Meeting: February 12, 2026

Zoom Meeting link and agenda to be published prior to the meeting

www.cocoradio.org • info@cocoradio.org