



High Country "Static"

**Coconino Amateur
Radio Club**

Issue No. 2 | April 2026 | Volume 2



Coconino ARC On the Air: Nets & Frequencies

Net	Schedule	Repeater
"Get Together on Rimlink"	Mondays @ 19:30 (Arizona time)	147.14 MHz — Mt Elden ARA Rimlink Repeater
CARC ARES/SKYWARN Net	Wednesdays @ 19:00 (Arizona time)	146.98 MHz — Mt Elden ARA Repeater

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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!

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	<i>Dan Shearer, N7YIQ</i>
	August 8, 2026	Big Brother/Big Sister Half Marathon	<i>Jeff Thomson — KK7ZGY Joe Hobart — W7LUX</i>
	Sept 19-20, 2026	Stagecoach 100	<i>To Be Determined</i>

CARC ARES Report

ARES Report – Joe Hobart (W7LUX) reported 166 total hours for February, including monitoring of multiple repeaters and frequencies during the recent snowstorm. ARES net participation has improved lately.

We have had great participation for the weekly ARES net recently...this is very encouraging! Please try to attend the Net on Wednesdays and stay active...the fire season is upon us, and it looks like we are in for above normal temperatures and below normal participation throughout the June timeframe. There have been several small fires in northern Arizona already this year.

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.

Courses available at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>

Course	Description
IS-100	Introduction to the Incident Command System
IS-200	Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response
IS-700	National Incident Management System, An Introduction
IS-800	National Response Framework, An Introduction

CARC Club Business Corner

Sacred Mountain Prayer Run volunteers needed

- We still need an event coordinator for the upcoming Sacred Mountain Prayer Run, June 3rd, 2026. Dan Shearer will not be able to take this position in 2026. Please contact us if you are interested. We are also searching for volunteer operators for this event as well. This is a fun event and a great way to practice your operating skills and provide public service to the community. All new hams are welcome to come learn and participate!

ARRL Field Day

- The NADXA club has invited us to share in the field day activities with them as a joint club activity. They normally host their field day event at the Home Depot located in Flagstaff near Country Club Rd. and I-40. We will bring this topic up at our next monthly meeting to discuss this offer and how we can augment/ad to the joint field day event.

STEM Celebration

- APR 25 1-4pm. Joe is coordinating. Glenn, Al, Mark, and Ken will be participating. Activities will include Morse code demonstrations and an active ham station on 20 meters.

CARC 50th Anniversary (1976-2026)

- The group discussed planning a special event to celebrate the Coconino Amateur Radio Club's 50th anniversary, coinciding with the country's 250th anniversary and Route 66's 100th anniversary. We are considering hosting the event during Field Day in June, which could include antenna launching contests and other activities.

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

Upcoming 2026 Events



ARRL 2026 Year of the Club

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.

[2026 is ARRL's Year of the Club — A Celebration of Amateur Radio Clubs](#)



Route 66 Centennial — 100 Years!

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.



ARRL 2026 Field Day

ARRL Field Day 2026 takes place **June 27–28**, bringing together more than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the US and Canada. Kicking off at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday, This year's theme is "Amateur Radio: A National Resource," making it the perfect occasion to showcase the hobby to the public. Mark your calendars and start planning now!

Save the Date: June 27-28

Event Overview: Big Brothers Big Sisters Flagstaff Half Marathon

Origins and Dave McKay's Legacy

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff Half Marathon has the distinction of being the second-oldest half marathon in Arizona, with roots reaching back nearly five decades. The 2025 race will mark the 48th annual running of this event, placing its origins around 1978.

The race bears the name of Dave McKay, whose legacy and connection to the event are commemorated through the race name. The Dave McKay Memorial designation honors an individual who made significant contributions to the Flagstaff running community and the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, though the specific details of McKay's involvement represent an important part of local running history that deserves continued recognition.

From its earliest years, the race has served as a fundraising event for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff, with 100% of proceeds benefiting BBBSF mentoring programs. This direct financial support has been crucial to sustaining the organization's mission of creating and supporting one-to-one mentoring relationships that "ignite the power and promise of youth."

The longevity of the event—48 consecutive years—demonstrates the deep commitment of the Flagstaff running community to supporting youth mentorship through athletic fundraising. This makes the race not just a sporting event but a community tradition passed down through generations of runners.

The Course: Observatory Mesa and Pluto's Discovery Site

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Half Marathon follows a unique and historically significant course. Starting at Thorpe Park in Flagstaff, runners climb a steep urban trail onto Observatory Mesa—the location of Lowell Observatory, where astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovered Pluto in 1930.

The course elevations range from 6,957 feet at the start to 7,731 feet near the 7.5-mile mark, with most of the climbing concentrated in the first 1.25 miles—a brutal start that tests runners immediately. Race directors famously advise runners from lower elevations to "power walk" this initial climb, noting that "you will easily make up the time over the rest of the course." This advice reflects the high-altitude challenge that characterizes Flagstaff racing.

Once atop Observatory Mesa, the course follows dirt roads offering spectacular views of the San Francisco Peaks. The combination of elevation, technical terrain, and scenic beauty creates what participants describe as a "challenging and breathtakingly beautiful course" that embodies high-country Arizona trail running. The 5K course also utilizes Observatory Mesa, allowing shorter-distance participants to experience the same scenic and historic location. A children's dash (1 kilometer) introduces young runners to the event, planting seeds for the next generation of supporters.

Mission and Community Impact

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18, in Flagstaff and Williams. The organization's vision is that all youth achieve their full potential, and their mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

The organization partners with parents, guardians, volunteers, and community members, holding itself accountable for each child in the program achieving specific outcomes:

- Higher aspirations
- Greater confidence
- Better relationships
- Avoidance of risky behaviors
- Educational success

The Dave McKay Memorial Half Marathon and 5K serve as the primary annual fundraising event for these mentoring programs, with funds supporting the recruitment of volunteer mentors, training, matching services, and ongoing support for mentoring relationships. The race currently impacts the lives of over 400 at-risk youth in the Flagstaff area.

The event has become integrated into Flagstaff's running culture, included in the Flagstaff Running Series—a value package of five iconic races that nearly 200 runners register for annually. It has also been part of the Series Runner Arizona Half Marathon Series, further extending its reach within the state's running community. Race traditions have developed over the decades, including the famous pre-race pizza party at Fratelli's where participants pick up their race packets, creating a festive atmosphere that brings the community together.

Come out and help us support this event by being a volunteer operator. This is a great way to support a great community event, brush up on operating skills and enjoy the beauty of Flagstaff outdoors!

Member Spotlight: Bill Smith, KQ1S

If you've ever found yourself wondering who's been quietly racking up over 1,000 ham radio license exam sessions, organizing communications for mountain endurance races, or chasing DX from the peaks of the American Southwest — well, now you know. Meet Bill Smith, KQ1S, one of CARC's most dedicated and well-traveled members. Bill has been a licensed Amateur Extra since 1983, and he's been making the most of every one of those years.

Bill's path to ham radio is one for the books. It started with a teenage fascination with CB radio, wound through a 22-year career in the military — including service as a communications and radar technician and, ultimately, Communications Squadron Commander in the Maine Air National Guard — and landed him in the amateur radio community during his college years in electrical engineering. After retiring from the Guard in 1997 and later from a career in telecommunications and IT management in 2018, Bill channeled that lifetime of technical expertise straight into the hobby he loves.

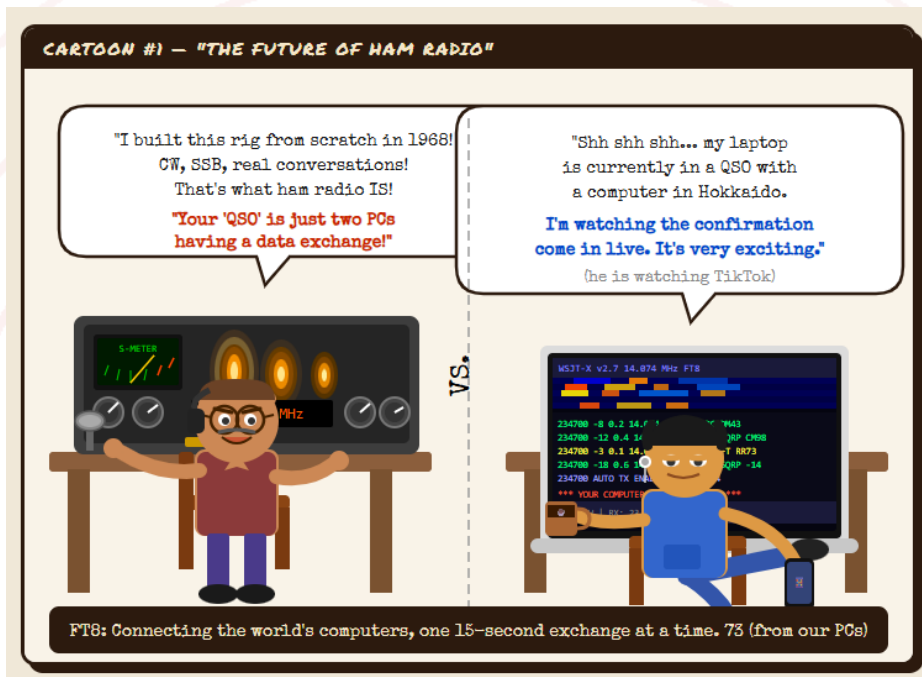
These days, Bill's ham radio life is anything but quiet. He drives from his home in South Carolina to Flagstaff every year to lend his skills and leadership to events like the Stagecoach 100, North Rim Ramble, and Route 66 On the Air — a testament to his genuine love of public service and the CARC community. When he's not coordinating communications for multi-day endurance events, you'll find him chasing SOTA and POTA activations, contesting on SSB, hunting DX, or tackling VHF/UHF mountaintop distance challenges. He's earned both DXCC and Worked All States along the way.

Looking ahead, Bill has an exciting summer on the horizon: he's heading to Alaska in 2026 to activate several remote POTA entities, giving operators around the world a chance to snag some rare All-Time New Ones (ATNOs). He's also working on brushing the rust off his CW skills — because why not add one more challenge to the list? Whether you're a new ham or a seasoned extra, Bill is the kind of Elmer and enthusiast who makes this club worth being part of. Be sure to say hello — or better yet, catch him on the air!



73 DE W?WTF

Amateur Radio Cartoons — Laughing at Ourselves Since 1927



73 from the High Country!

Next Meeting: April 9th, 2026

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

www.cocoradio.org • info@cocoradio.org