

UTAH ARRL SECTION

Section Manager Communique

1. Digital Communications Conference
2. ARRL Division Convention 2024
3. More money for your club and more...
4. New to Amateur Radio?



Register now at Utah-DCC.org

Conference Registration

Registration will remain open until Friday, February 2nd. Based on available seating, same-day registration is also allowed but not guaranteed. Those who are already registered will get an email with conference information.

Utah DCC is an ARRL sanctioned event. The ARRL is providing 3 prize coupons for the Conference. There are two (2) \$25 coupons and one (1) \$50 coupon.

Some of the topics include...
D-STAR, DMR, P25, Fusion, YSF, Fox Hunting, Basic and Advanced Antenna Modeling, National Traffic System and Digital Communications, Remote Station Operation, and more.

Demonstration Tables

Are you working on a project, have something to share, or would like to promote your club? Email utahdcc@gmail.com to reserve a free table. (Tables are limited and no sales are allowed)

Announcement: HamCon:Zion 2024

The Premier Amateur Radio Convention Experience

We are thrilled to announce HamCon:Zion 2024, set to take place at The Dixie Convention Center in St. George, Utah, on July 12 & 13, 2024. This inaugural event will serve as the esteemed venue for the 2024 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, hosted by the Utah Section. HamCon:Zion is dedicated to offering a unique convention experience, specially tailored for the amateur radio community in the West. The event will feature a comprehensive array of presentations, speakers, and activities, all designed to engage, educate, and inspire attendees from across the amateur radio spectrum.

Whether you're a seasoned ham looking to deepen your expertise, or a newcomer eager to learn and connect, HamCon:Zion promises an unmatched opportunity to explore the latest in amateur radio technology, practices, and community.

In addition to the convention, attendees will have the chance to discover Southern Utah's breathtaking landscapes, making it the perfect backdrop for this gathering of amateur radio enthusiasts.

Mark your calendars for this must-attend event, and join us in St. George for a celebration of amateur radio culture and community.

For more details, ticketing information, and to register, please visit [HamCon:Zion's official website](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to HamCon:Zion 2024!

Club Commission Program

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL member renewals. The commission structure has been updated and the process has changed to make it more lucrative and easier for the clubs. All membership dues are sent to ARRL to be processed and the club receives a commission payment directly from ARRL. No more complicated adjusting funds around credit cards, checks and cash. ARRL does all the processing. As a result, your club could earn money while promoting the many benefits and programs of ARRL to ensure that amateur radio is protected and continues to be strong.

The awaited updates for the Club Commission Program have been posted to the ARRL website at [Affiliated Club Benefits \(arrl.org\)](http://arrl.org).

New to Amateur Radio?

Two friends of mine became licensed in December. The seed was planted years ago... Please welcome... KK7PXO, Taylor Brady – General, and KK7QBT, John Green – Technician, to the airwaves.

I received a phone call from John on his way home after the test. He stated that he wanted to tell someone who would celebrate in his accomplishment. So, if you hear them on the airwaves be sure to congratulate them or any newly licensed ham.

Years after planting the seed, to see it sprout so to speak, is a nice reward in and of itself. It caused me to reflect on retention. Consider the following in your efforts to retain those in the hobby.

1. **Mentorship Programs:** Implementing a mentorship program where experienced amateur radio operators (Elmers) are paired with new licensees can provide the guidance, encouragement, and support that newcomers need. This personal connection can help new operators navigate the early challenges of setting up equipment, understanding regulations, and making their first contacts.

2. **Welcome Packages:** Providing new licensees with a welcome package that includes essential information about local clubs, frequencies for local nets, a list of upcoming events, and resources for further learning can be immensely helpful. This not only equips them with valuable information but also

shows that the amateur radio community is supportive and welcoming.

3. **Introductory Workshops and Classes:** Organizing workshops or classes that cover basic topics such as radio operation, antenna building, and digital modes can significantly boost the confidence of new operators. These sessions should also highlight the various aspects of the hobby, from contesting and DXing to emergency communications and technical experimentation, to spark interest in different areas.

4. **Involvement in Club Activities:** Encouraging new operators to get involved in local amateur radio clubs and participate in their activities can help them build social connections within the community. Clubs should make a concerted effort to involve new members in planning and executing events, which can increase their sense of ownership and commitment to the hobby.

5. **Access to Equipment:** For many new operators, the initial cost of equipment can be a barrier. Clubs or associations could consider establishing a loaner program for radios and antennas to help new operators get on the air without significant upfront investment.

6. **Recognition and Encouragement:** Recognizing the achievements of new operators, whether through awards, certificates, or public acknowledgment in club meetings or newsletters, can have a tremendous impact on their motivation. Celebrating milestones, such as their first DX contact or successful participation in a contest, can reinforce their interest and commitment.

7. **Promotion of Online Communities and Resources:** Pointing new licensees towards reputable online forums, social media groups, and educational resources can help them find answers to their questions, share their experiences, and stay engaged with the global amateur radio community.

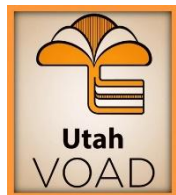
8. **Encouragement of Service and Involvement:** Finally, highlighting the role of amateur radio in public service and emergency communications can instill a sense of purpose and pride in new operators. Encouraging participation in events such as Field Day, Simulated Emergency Tests (SETs), and public service activities can demonstrate the real-world impact and importance of their contributions to the community and beyond.

Retention in amateur radio hinges on creating a welcoming, supportive, and engaging environment for new operators. By taking these immediate actions, the community can ensure that newcomers not only stay in the hobby but also thrive and contribute to its growth and vibrancy.

Be sure to stop by the ARRL table at the conference on Saturday.

73

Pat



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