



2023

Annual Report

Amateur Radio Digital Communications



AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

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Cover Photo: Delaware Valley Amateur Radio Association (DVRA). Credit: DVRA



Letter from the Executive Director



Hello and welcome to 2024 – which is already off to a busy start!

Before we fully jump into this year – which is slated to have some exciting new programs in it, like the [Grants Evaluation Team \(GET\)](#) – it's important to look back at and celebrate our accomplishments from the previous year. Thus we're delighted to share some of these accomplishments from 2023 with you, our community, along with a peek ahead into 2024.

Some highlights from last year that I'm particularly proud of:

- [Ria Jairam N2RJ joined our Board of Directors](#), adding tremendous experience and expertise to our leadership team.
- We approved over [65 grants and charitable gifts](#), totaling about \$5.3 million.
- Our Tech Team and [Technical Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#) made tremendous progress toward advancing policies and projects to enhance the usage of 44Net.
- We launched a [new and responsive website](#), a final project of Dan Romanchik KB6NU before he retired.

There's lots more, so keep reading! As you do, please join me in gratitude for all of the people who make this work possible: our staff, contractors, volunteers, grantees, 44Net participants, and the Board of Directors. Thanks to all of you for your contributions, and here's to another great year.

73,

Rosy

Rosy Schechter – KJ7RYV

Executive Director

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC)

ardc.net





2023 HamSCI Workshop at the University of Scranton, Scranton PA.

ARDC Mission

The mission of Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) is to support, promote, and enhance digital communication and broader communication science and technology, to promote Amateur Radio, scientific research, experimentation, education, development, open access, and innovation in information and communication technology.

ARDC Values

Our staff, contractors, and volunteers strive to uphold the following values:

- Curiosity
- Experimentalism
- Respect
- Accountability
- Openness & Transparency
- Inclusiveness
- Fairness
- Generosity & Gratitude

Read more about our values here: <https://www.ardc.net/about/values/>



2023 Organizational Highlights

Big News: Welcome Ria Jairam N2RJ!



As noted in the opening letter, some of the most exciting news is that [Ria Jairam N2RJ joined the ARDC Board of Directors in April 2023](#). She's hit the ground running, appointed to the Board's Audit Committee. She's also active in the TAC Roadmap Subcommittee, which focuses on developing policy related to 44Net. Ria brings to ARDC extensive knowledge of the culture and science of amateur radio and robust experience in content creation, which she's also put to good use at various conferences. Welcome, Ria!

Grantmaking

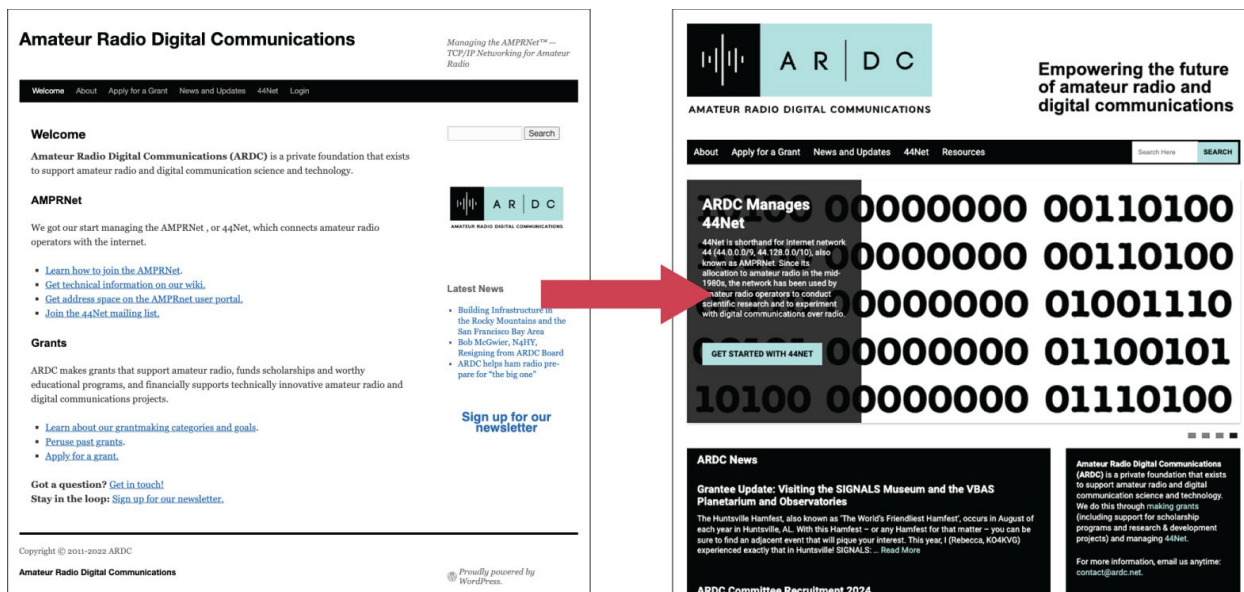
- The GAC reviewed over 190 proposals, of which 69 were ultimately funded.
- ARDC approved about [\\$5.3 million](#) to organizations whose projects and programs align with our goals.
- We hosted our first grantee gathering, which gave our grantees the optional opportunity to meet with one another to discuss challenges, learnings, and successes.
- Open Tech Strategies (OTS) continued development on our open-source grants management software, [Hypha](#).

44Net and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Work

- The TAC developed a proof-of-concept Point-of-Presence (PoP) architecture that enables an easy onramp for users wanting to deploy 44Net for various uses such as connections to remote radios or servers.
- A 44Net Portal refresh was developed and is planned for a Q1 2024 launch – many thanks to Chris Smith G1FEF and Tim Požar KC6GNJ.
- The TAC has begun work on policies and procedures for improving the workflow of 44Net administration and coordination activities, which will continue in 2024 with input from the community.



Outreach & Communications



Side-by-side comparison of the former ampr.org website (left) before it was updated to ardc.net (right).

- In June, we launched our new website, www.ardc.net. Kudos to Dan KB6NU for his work on getting the website live!
- The ARDC team attended several amateur radio events, and we expanded our reach into IARU Region 3 by attending the [JARL Ham Fair](#) in August.
- Our [newsletter](#) grew to more than 1000 subscribers.
- ardc.groups.io grew to more than 675 subscribers, and we published our [first instructional video](#) that gives an overview of how to get started on the platform.
- We have grown our social media presence on Facebook (225 followers), Twitter / X (nearly 600 followers), and LinkedIn (650 followers).

Operations

- After Dan Romanchik KB6NU retired, ARDC connected with Dr. Rebecca Key KO4KVG to join the team as Communications Manager, making great strides in streamlining our processes, website maintenance, and creating ARDC's first pieces of video content.
- After extensive iteration and input, ARDC adopted a [Code of Conduct](#) and updated our [Gift Acceptance Policy](#) and [Website Privacy Policy](#).



2023 Financial Overview

In 2023, we approved 69 grants and 17 charitable gifts, valued at approximately \$5.3 million, and distributed approximately \$6.7 million. More exact numbers will be provided with our 2023 audited financial statement and associated IRS filing, which will be shared later this year.

What's the difference between approved vs. distributed amounts?

- **Approved amount:** This is the total value of the grants and gifts approved in a given year. By the end of the year, some of these grants may still be in the contracting stage. In such instances, funds would not be distributed until the following fiscal / calendar year.
- **Distributed amount:** This figure reflects the funds that have been distributed for payment in a given year. In 2023, some of the grants approved in 2022 were distributed in 2023, which is why the number is higher than the approved amount.

The approved and distributed amounts roughly align with the accrual and cash distribution calculations as shown on our 990-PFs. To get a deep dive into our most recent tax return and learn more about how cash and accrual accounting apply to our yearly distribution, [check out this blog post](#).

How does this year's giving compare with previous years?

Yearly Grants & Gifts Distribution		
Year	Accrual	Cash
2023	~ \$5.3 million	~ \$6.7 million
2022	\$6,904,678	\$8,004,191
2021	\$10,798,573	\$9,247,203
2020	\$3,155,532	\$3,004,625

Whether you look at our distribution from a cash or accrual standpoint, between 2020-2022 ARDC averaged about \$6.9 million. Our charitable spending in 2023 was a bit more conservative, reflecting a downward trend in the market and decreased value of our endowment from the previous year, combined with a focus on the long-term sustainability of our fund.

More exact values for 2023 will be available after we complete our yearly audit and file our 2023 990-PF. For past 990s and financial statements, please visit: <https://www.ardc.net/about/legal/>



Detailed Look at Grants

Total amount approved in 2023: about \$5.3 million

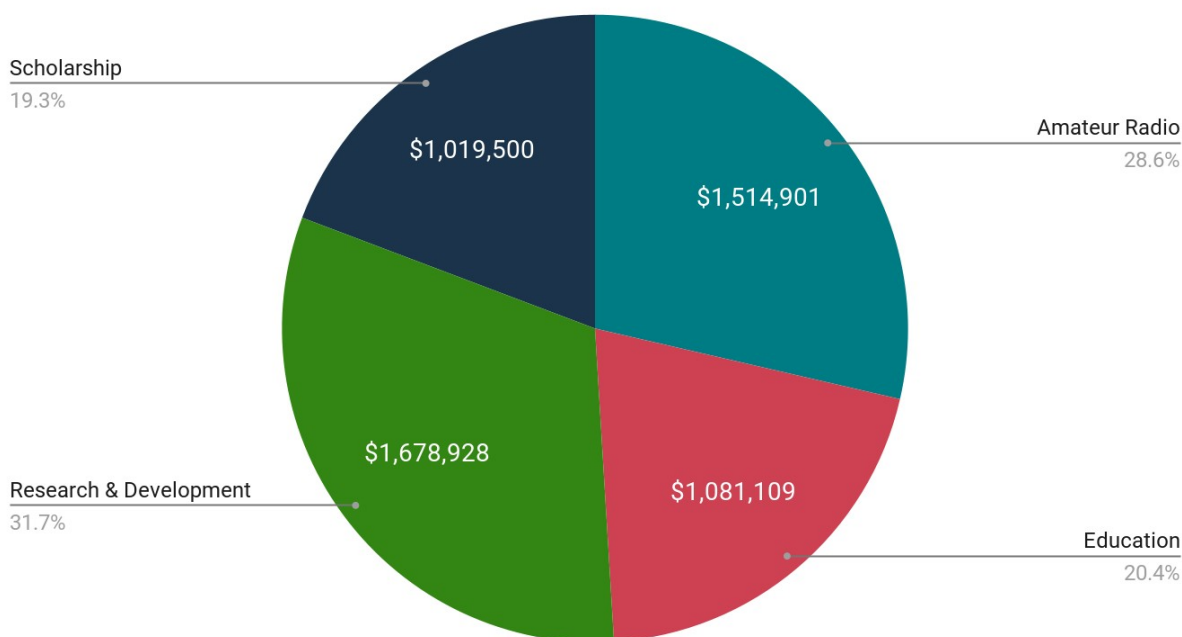
Total grants distributed in 2023: about \$6.7 million

See previous page for more information about these totals.

Since the ARDC grantmaking program's inception, we have impacted over 78,000 people worldwide. You can read full descriptions of our 2023 awarded grants [on our website](#). ARDC's 2023 grants were distributed in four categories: Amateur Radio, Education, Scholarships, and Research & Development.

The below charts show how funded projects are distributed across ARDC's 2023 Categories.

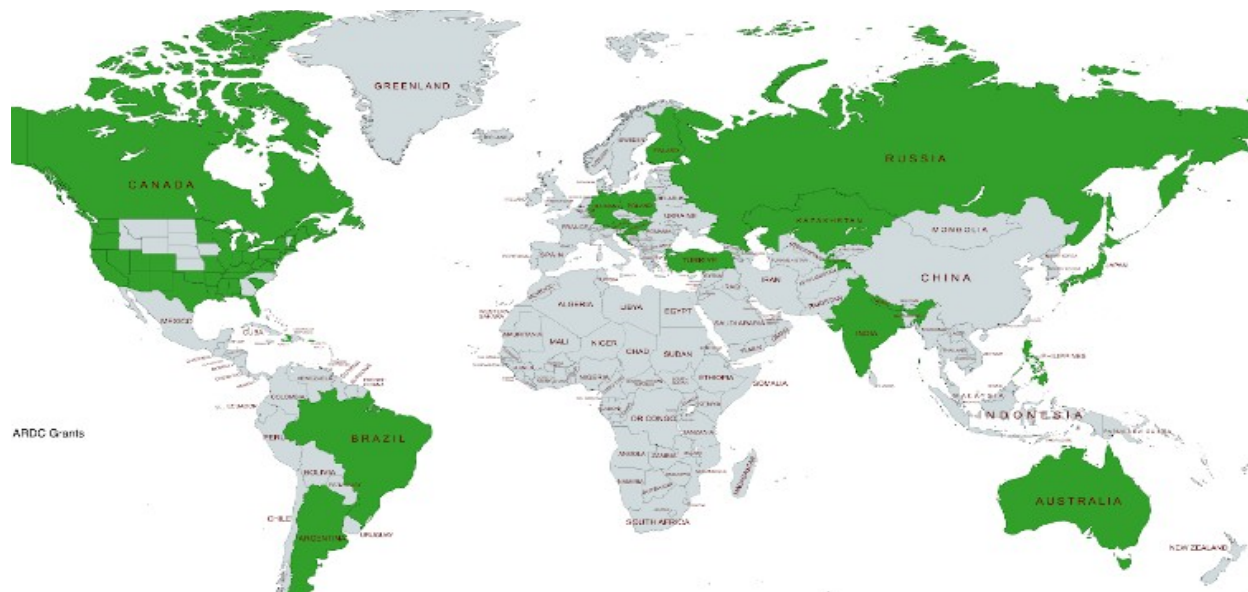
2023 Grants by Category - Dollars



Granting Category	Dollars Given	No. Grants	Percent of funding
Amateur Radio	\$1,514,901	34	28.61%
Education	\$1,081,109	22	20.42%
Scholarships	\$1,019,500	4	19.26%
Research & Development	\$1,678,928	9	31.71%



In 2023, our international grantmaking represented 13% of our funded projects. We made new connections to organizations based in the Philippines and Nepal and will continue to aim for additional international growth in 2024.



Countries impacted by ARDC Grants (2019-2023)

Amateur Radio

Amateur radio projects include network build-outs, equipment upgrades and repairs, and licensing programs. Projects involving repeater repairs, upgrades, or installations were particularly popular. Our most common grantees for these projects include K-12 school or college amateur radio clubs (6) and community amateur radio clubs (21).

In 2023, we added a question to our application focused on outreach. Our reviewers wanted to see that these amateur radio projects have a clear plan for bringing new people into the hobby or that increase the skills and depth of engagement for those who are already operators.

Highlight: Handihams

One project we were especially proud to support is the [Courage Kenny Handiham Program](#). Handiham is a 50+ year-old organization that removes barriers to amateur radio and builds a worldwide community by providing a way for individuals with disabilities to earn their amateur radio licenses at home. [With funding from ARDC](#), HandiHam can keep membership costs low, provide financial assistance for their Hotel-based Radio Camp Project, and provide handheld radios for new licensees to use, including radios accessible for visually impaired and blind members. You can learn more about this organization and their work from their website.



Amateur Radio Projects	Amount
Ham Emergency Radio Operations, INC. - PIGs	\$ 2,100
Allina Health Foundation on behalf of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute - <i>Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute Handiham Program</i>	\$ 67,800
Boston Amateur Radio Club and A2- <i>Boston Amateur Radio Club</i>	\$ 19,301
SondeHub - <i>SondeHub Amateur</i>	\$ 19,500
Northwest Missouri ARES Group - <i>Missouri Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.</i>	\$ 8,000
WX5FWD SKYWarn Team - <i>WX5FWD Modernization Project</i>	\$ 101,303
ECE Repeater Group, Inc. - <i>System-wide DC Power Backup</i>	\$ 9,328
SKYHUBLINK System - <i>System Hardening and Equipment Upgrade</i>	\$ 28,917
Delaware Valley Radio Association (DVRA) - <i>5m EME Facility</i>	\$ 20,000
Central Arkansas Radio Emergency Net - <i>Standby Generator - Shinall Mt</i>	\$ 6,995
Pierce County Amateur Radio Communication Services - <i>ARCS HF Go Kits</i>	\$ 4,000
Southern Amateur Radio Union - <i>SARU Digital</i>	\$ 10,602
Hampden County Radio Association - <i>2023 Project Big E</i>	\$ 8,300
Lehi Amateur Radio Club - <i>Redwood Road Electrical Repairs</i>	\$ 3,959
CalNet Amateur Radio Group - <i>Digital Expansion and System Resilience</i>	\$ 152,250
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology - <i>Rose Tech Radio Club Tower and Shack Upgrade</i>	\$ 32,690
Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society - <i>Radio Frequency Mitigation</i>	\$ 13,783
Mid-State Amateur Radio Club - <i>Modernize W9MID Emergency Operations Center (EOC)</i>	\$ 10,750
Anchorage Amateur Radio Club - <i>First Mile Emergency E-mail Server Prototype</i>	\$ 10,517
Merrimack Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc. - <i>Greater Merrimack Valley Digital Network</i>	\$ 46,125
University of Cincinnati Amateur Radio Club W8YX - <i>UCARC Relocation and Restoration</i>	\$ 45,203
49 Repeater Group, L.L.C. - <i>N0NWS Skywarn Emergency Repeater Network Upgrade</i>	\$ 67,750
Jacksonville Range Association Inc - <i>Portable Communications System</i>	\$ 4,400
CSUCI Amateur Radio Interest Group (KN6ZYB) - <i>Establishing Infrastructure for Undergraduate Involvement in Amateur Radio</i>	\$ 73,920
San Angelo Amateur Radio Club (SAARC) - <i>Remove, Install and Upgrade SAARC Club's Repeaters</i>	\$ 30,642
Haiti International Friendship Amateur Radio Club - <i>Haiti Emergency Communication Network</i>	\$ 42,411
Bellaire High School Amateur Radio Club - <i>Creating the Bellaire High School Amateur Radio Club</i>	\$ 1,623
Milford Amateur Radio Club - <i>Repeater Site Digital Infrastructure Upgrades</i>	\$ 15,074
The ARRL Foundation - <i>ARRL Club Grants Program</i>	\$ 592,322
Ham Radio Village - <i>Amateur Radio Evangelist</i>	\$ 18,000



Lucas County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, Inc - <i>LCARES Hospitals AREDN</i>	\$ 12,395
The Mckenzie Center for Innovation and Technology - <i>Mckenzie Center Amateur Radio system</i>	\$ 15,700
Amateur Radio Club at UC San Diego (KK6UC) - <i>KK6UC Club Modernization and Public Service Infrastructure Project</i>	\$ 7,547
Ogden Dunes Amateur Radio Club and Porter County Amateur Radio Club. - <i>North Idaho Repeater Group Antenna System Replacement Project</i>	\$ 11,694

Education

ARDC's education grants engage the community in general learning about amateur radio and STEAM. A major goal is to reach youth and bring them into the hobby, and thus 85% of our 2023 education grants targeted children or college students. Education grants employ a wide range of program strategies, including museum displays, youth camps, mentoring programs, equipping school clubs, and funds for college senior capstone projects that incorporate amateur radio.

Highlight: 56 Ranchers 4-H, Electricity and Electronics

In most cases, learning happens with hands-on engagement and experimentation. The 56 Ranchers 4-H, Electricity and Electronics, is one such project that offers hands-on learning for kids under 16 in Southern California. Specifically, this project allows them to immerse themselves in learning about electronic technology and radio. The 56 Ranchers 4-H is building on its farming roots and the "Head, Heart, Hands, and Health" (4-H) motto to encompass more STEM projects. [With funding from ARDC](#), they are ensuring students are provided with the equipment needed for their hands-on activities around the amateur radio Technician Class License exam and to promote thinking like an innovator rather than a technology consumer.



Education Projects	Amount
Marin Amateur Radio Society - <i>North Bay Area Mesh: Phase Two</i>	\$ 33,000
The Amateur Radio Club of the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut - <i>W1VCM Antenna Enhancement</i>	\$ 15,300
Military Heritage Museum - <i>Amateur Radio: Past, Present, and Future</i>	\$ 61,115
Electronic Applications Radio Service, INC - <i>2023 - 2025 Youth on the Air (YOTA-Americas) Camp</i>	\$ 75,000
Manila Council Amateur Radio Club - <i>Radio Scouting International</i>	\$ 85,320
56 Ranchers 4-H, Electricity & Electronics Project - <i>Bringing Amateur Radio to 4-H Youth Development</i>	\$ 5,237
San Diego Imperial Council Boy Scouts of America - <i>WB6BSA Radio Shack</i>	\$ 29,290
ARRL - <i>STEM Kits for Teachers</i>	\$ 36,875
North Middle School Radio Club - <i>North Middle School Founding Equipment</i>	\$ 2,000
North Middle School Radio Club - <i>North Middle School HF Station</i>	\$ 4,500
South Eugene High School Radio Club - <i>SEHS Radio Club Station & club Development Project</i>	\$ 16,997
HamSCI / The University of Scranton - <i>Support of Diverse Participation in the 2024 HamSCI Workshop</i>	\$ 35,040
Amateur Radio Satellite Ground Station for Teaching - <i>Carleton University Faculty of Engineering & Design</i>	\$ 30,000
York County Amateur Radio Society (YCARS) - <i>Project Target</i>	\$ 99,723
Vasavi College of Engineering - <i>Establishment of Analog/Digital Networking Using Amateur Radio Between Schools and Colleges</i>	\$ 30,000
Case Amateur Radio Club W8EDU - <i>Engineering Undergraduate Senior Project Support</i>	\$ 3,000
SETI Institute - <i>Connecting the Cosmos: Developing Innovative GNU Radio-Based SETI Curriculum</i>	\$ 99,393
Antarikhya Pratisthan Nepal (Space Foundation Nepal) - <i>Slippers2Sat Project: An Open-Source Amateur Satellite Project for Marginalized, Under-privileged and Low-caste Government School Students</i>	\$ 384,000
W8GVU Fox Hunt - <i>Grand Valley State University Amateur Radio Council</i>	\$ 3,800
Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Association - <i>SMARA Club Grant</i>	\$ 19,033
Yavapai Amateur Radio Club - <i>YARC Training and Testing Program</i>	\$ 3,500
Open Collective Europe - <i>Action for Community Transformation India Foundation Trust (ACTIF Trust)</i>	\$ 8,986



Scholarships

In 2023, ARDC funded scholarships through four programs, bringing our all-time total to 317 ARDC-funded individual scholarship recipients. All of our scholarship grants successfully reach at least one underserved group, and all of our funded programs make selections based on a mix of need and merit. Many students write to us to let us know that they could not attend college without scholarship assistance.

2023 Scholarships Funded	Amount
The ARRL Foundation	\$ 507,500
Society of Women Engineers	\$ 365,000
AISES	\$ 72,000
Washington Women in Need	\$ 75,000

[The Society of Women Engineers \(SWE\)](#) is a unique organization that not only gives out scholarships to women who pursue STEM subjects at a collegiate level, but also provides support to students K-12 and encourages girls to explore engineering and technology fields. The SWE does not limit its scholarships to students at a four-year university; it also supports those who start at a junior or community college and transfer to a four-year school and even beyond to graduate programs. With the funding from ARDC, SWE will be able to support 30 new scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Scholarship Success Story: School of Mines (2021 grant)



Silje Ostrem, Electrical Engineering student, and ARDC-funded scholarship recipient.

ARDC receives thank you letters from many of our scholars. In 2021, ARDC funded scholarships for four students at the Colorado School of Mines. Silje Ostrem, an Electrical Engineering student, is a part of the 2025 graduating class. She shared in a letter to us, “Thank you for your support. This money is life changing and will help me pursue my goals. I am an electrical engineering student with a focus in Antennas and Wireless Communication, and a minor in Public Affairs through the McBride Honors program. Through my time working in the ARC (Antennas, RF, and Comp. EM) Lab, I developed a passion for antennas and RF. Everything I do in the ARC lab teaches me something new and incredible and there is just so much to learn and discover.”



Research & Development

In 2023, ARDC made 9 grants in the research & development category. All of ARDC's supported research projects are open source. A majority of projects focus on improving or developing new amateur radio tools and technology.

Highlight: ZUM Radio

One of the R&D projects funded was from [ZUM Radio](#). [With the help of ARDC](#), they expanded their [Multimode Digital Voice Modem \(MMDVM\) project](#) to improve access for amateur radio operators and keep their products open-source. This grant provided funding for them to hire a full-time software engineer onto the MMDVM project team. As a result, many important tasks could be completed, such as bug mitigation, creating a user-friendly dashboard, and improving the core code module (MMDVMHost) relating to both the display interface and digital modes, ultimately developing better products for the end users.

Research & Development Projects	Amount
Software Freedom Conservancy - <i>Proposal for Copyleft Enforcement</i>	\$ 319,000
Rhizomatica Communications - <i>Improving a State-of-the-Art Free Software Telecommunication Network Stack for the HF Band</i>	\$ 311,166
Cal Poly Corporation - <i>Direction Finding from Aerial Platforms with Amateur Radio Digital Arrays</i>	\$ 51,945
Software Freedom Conservancy - <i>Enhancing HF Digital Voice With FreeDV</i>	\$ 420,000
Cascade Amateur Radio Society - <i>Actual EMP Testing of Various Amateur Radios</i>	\$ 7,935
PSU Foundation - <i>Full-Duplex Wireless Antenna Design for Amateur Bands</i>	\$ 99,562
Portland State University Foundation - <i>University Class Open Source Ground Station (UniCLOGS): An Upgrade to an Open Source Amateur Radio Ground Station for Satellite Operators</i>	\$ 142,678
ZUM Radio - <i>Multimode Digital Voice Modem (MMDVM)</i>	\$ 150,000
University of Pittsburgh - <i>Building Open-Source, Programmable Backscatter Radio for Ultra-Low Power Wireless Communication</i>	\$ 176,642



A Message from our Technical Director



Hello everyone!

The evolution of 44Net has begun!

ARDC is working with the volunteer community to identify technology upgrades that improve and simplify how 44Net IP address space is used.

44Net community outreach will be a major focus in 2024. We want to learn about IPv4 and IPv6 network related use-cases that benefit the amateur radio community.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Warm wishes and 73,
Jon

Jon Kemper – KA6NVY
Technical Director
Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC)
ardc.net



44Net Development & Outreach



*Left: a hotspot routed through 44Net;
Right: Jon Kemper (KA6NVY) and John Hays (K7VE) spreading the word about 44Net and how to get involved at Pacificon in San Ramon, CA.*

2023 was a year of development and outreach for 44Net. In addition to getting the word out at a variety of conferences, in 2023:

- The TAC developed a proof-of-concept Point-of-Presence (PoP) architecture that enables an easy onramp for users wanting to deploy 44Net for various uses, such as connections to remote radios or servers. This technology relies on automation, enabling users to rapidly set up a publicly routable 44Net IP tunnel that connects with an inexpensive off-the-shelf router.
- The TAC developed a working proof-of-concept IoT solution. This infrastructure helps amateur radio users connect to remote equipment using 44Net VPN tunnels.
- The Tech Team made progress on an updated Portal, slated for release in Q1 2024.
- We hosted workshops with the academic community to explore how amateur radio users could participate in Internet Measurement using 44Net as one of many examples of how we might increase usage of this rare and incredible resource.

We are excited to continue this work in 2024. As part of our investment into 44Net, ARDC has a registered ASN number used with its VPN servers and is developing plans to automate how IP address allocation requests are processed. Later in the year, we will announce a modernized 44Net landing page with new resources that improve the user experience.



Outreach and Engagement

Conferences and Hamfests



*Board member Ria Jairam (N2RJ)
with ARRL ARDC Scholarship
recipient Desiree Baccus (N3DEZ) at
2023 Hamvention in Xenia, OH*

Our participation in conferences and hamfests aims to increase awareness of ARDC and its activities, including both our grants program and 44Net. In addition to presentations, in 2023, we also began including demos of a 44Net VPN router at our booths toward the end of the year, highlighting some of the work being done by the TAC.

These events also allow us to engage with our community, including current and prospective grantees. It is an opportunity to build relationships with other organizations, including the ARRL, IARU, DARC, JARL, and national/regional societies.

We attended the following events in 2023:

- [HamCation](#) - February in Orlando, FL ♦ □
- [NANOG-87](#) - February in Atlanta, GA
- [HamSCI](#) - March in Scranton, PA
- [QSO Today](#) - March online virtual Hamfest □
- [Hamvention](#) - May in Xenia, OH ♦ □
- [SEA-PAC](#) - June in Seaside, OR ♦ □
- [NANOG-88](#) - June in Seattle, WA
- [Ham Radio 2023](#) - June in Friedrichshafen, Germany ♦ □
- [FOSSY 2023](#) - July in Portland, OR
- [DEFCON 31](#) - August in Las Vegas, NV □ \$
- [Huntsville Hamfest](#) - August in Huntsville, AL ♦ □
- [JARL Ham Fair](#) - August in Tokyo, Japan □
- [GNU Radio Conference](#) - September in Tempe, AZ □ \$
- [Pacificon](#) - October in San Ramon, CA ♦ □

♦ Presentation \$ Sponsor □ Booth or Table



Podcasts and YouTube Channels

We appeared on the following podcasts and YouTube channels in 2023:

- [Ria's Ham Shack](#)
- [Hikin' n' Hammin'](#)
- [ICQ Podcast](#)
- [Hack-a-Day](#)

Press Releases

Our press releases were published in the following publications:

- [ARRL Letter](#)
- [Amateur Radio Newsline](#)
- [This Week in Amateur Radio](#)
- [QRZ.com](#)
- [eHam.net](#)
- [Amateur Radio Weekly](#), [Amateur Radio Daily](#)
- [Zero Retries](#)
- Various local news publications

Monthly Newsletters

We published 11 monthly [newsletters](#) and increased the number of subscribers from more than 600 to over 1000.

Community Meetings

We held well-attended community meetings in January and July 2023. Community meetings are held via Zoom. Anyone interested in ARDC's work is invited to attend and discuss what we've been doing and where we are going.

Grantee Gatherings

We held our first Grantee Gatherings in April and October 2023 with a great turnout. Participants joined us on Zoom to discuss tips, successes, and challenges observed through their projects, all intending to learn from one another. These gatherings were quite successful, and we plan to hold these Gatherings again in 2024.



Social Media and Groups.io

We have continually posted updates on our social media pages and Groups.io, which has resulted in growing these platforms. At the conclusion of 2023, we have 225 followers on Facebook, nearly 600 followers on Twitter / X; and 650 followers on LinkedIn.

Since 2021, we have grown Groups.io to more than 690 subscribers. To support our Groups.io community, we have also published our first instructional [video](#) in our library that provides a brief overview of how to get started on [ardc.groups.io](https://groups.io).

We have created the following special interest subgroups within Groups.io, where three of these groups were created in 2023:

[44Net](#)

Created: 02/17/22
183 Members

[ARDC Wiki](#)

Created: 08/25/23
26 Members

[Community](#)

Created: 04/19/23
686 Members

[ARDC Grantees](#)

Created: 4/19/23
55 Members

[44Net VPN](#)

Created: 07/01/18
344 Members

Thank you, Dan!



So much of ARDC's Outreach and Communication work was pioneered by Dan Romanchik KB6NU, who came on board in the summer of 2021, retiring in the summer of 2023. (Well, as much as any ham can retire – we know he's still out there writing!) Dan, we miss you and look forward to seeing you out in the world.

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2023 Team

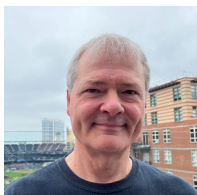
None of our work would be possible without a great team, which we are lucky to have!

Staff



ARDC's staff as of Dec. 2023. Top row, L to R: Rosy Schechter KJ7RYV, Executive Director; Jon Kemper KA6NVY, Technical Director; Chelsea Párraga KF0FVJ, Grants Manager. Bottom row, L to R: Rebecca Key KO4KVG, Communications Manager; John Hays K7VE, Outreach Manager; Merideth Stroh KK7BKI, Operations Manager. Shaista Griffin (not shown) was added as a Grants Associate in January 2024.

Tech Team (Contract)



Chris Smith, G1FEF, provides IT services through his company, [The Communication Gateway](#). As a volunteer, he manages 44Net address space.



Tim Požar, KC6GNJ, helps ARDC with IT through his company, [Two P](#). He also volunteers with TAC-related and Conduct Review Committee (CRC) projects.



Board of Directors

New Officers in 2023



2023 ARDC Officers, from left to right: Bdale Garbee, KB0G, President; kc claffy, KC6KCC, Treasurer; and John Gilmore, W0GNU, Secretary.

In 2023, in addition to adding Ria Jairam (N2RJ), ARDC's Board of Directors made some shifts at the Officer level, effective July 1, 2023:

- Bdale Garbee (KB0G) of Black Forest, CO, shifted from Treasurer to President, and
- kc claffy (KC6KCC) of San Diego, CA, shifted from Director to Treasurer.

Secretary John Gilmore (W0GNU) remains as Secretary, and former President Phil Karn (KA9Q) remains active as a Board Member.

2023 Board Members

These were our board members as of Dec. 2023:

- President: Bdale Garbee — KB0G
- Treasurer: kc claffy — KC6KCC
- Secretary: John Gilmore — W0GNU
- Director: Phil Karn — KA9Q
- Director: Keith Packard — K7WQ
- Director: Ria Jairam — N2RJ

Bob Witte (K0NR) was added to the Board in January 2024.



Conduct Review Committee (CRC)

In 2023, ARDC established the Conduct Review Committee (CRC), a group of volunteers who ensure that ARDC spaces, described in the [Code of Conduct](#), are welcoming and productive.

- Keith Packard — *K7WQ*
- Merideth Stroh — *KK7BKJ*
- Tim Požar — *KC6GNJ*

Grants Advisory Committee (GAC)

ARDC succeeded in making these grants thanks in no small part to the Grants Advisory Committee (GAC):

- Staff Lead: John Hays – *K7VE*
- Chair: Bob Witte – *K0NR*
- Dewayne Hendricks – *WA8DZP*
- Doug Kingston – *KD7DK*
- Brian Milesosky – *N5ZGT*
- Leandro Soares Indrusiak – *G5LSI*
- Don Prosnitz – *N6PRZ*
- Dennis Derickson – *AC0P*
- Bill Thomas – *WT0DX*
- Katie Allen – *WY7YL*
- Judi Clark – *KK6ZCU*
- Randy Wilkinson – *W4LKS*
- Jim Idelson – *K1IR*
- Kristin Paget – *NC0DD*
- David Burgess

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

ARDC is grateful to the Technical Advisory Committee for their part in guiding the development of the 44Net and their hard work on the portal specification and 44Net survey.

- Staff Lead: Jon Kemper – *KA6NVY*
- Pierre Martel – *VE2PF*
- Adam Lewis – *KC7GDY*
- Zach Seguin – *VA3ZTS*
- Rob Janssen – *PE1CHL*
- Chip Eckardt – *W9OQI*
- Dave Gingrich – *K9DC*
- Rich Gopstein – *KD2CQ*
- Alvaro Prieto – *KC2VVE*
- Ian Redden – *VA3IAN*
- Randy Neals – *VE3RWN / W3RWN*

You can see our whole team listing [here](#).



Looking ahead: 2024

Much got done in 2023, and 2024 has a great deal more in store for us! Here's a quick look:

Grants & Gifts

- Run a prototype volunteer [Grants Evaluation Team \(GET\)](#), which will review all final reports from our grantees. They'll be looking for trends and learning opportunities, which we'll share publicly, likely in the second half of the year.
- Continue our four-times/year application review cycle, with proposals due on Feb. 1, April 1, July 1, and Sept. 1 (including scholarships). Applications received after Sept. 1, 2024, will be reviewed on Feb. 1, 2025. See ardc.net/apply for more information.
- We plan to increase our impact internationally and continue to invest in high-impact research and development projects. **Applications for grants are likely to become more competitive.** Thus it will be important to have a thorough project plan when applying, and detailed reporting from prior projects if applying for repeat funding.

44Net / Technology

- Release of an updated Portal, along with planning for additional development.
- Develop proofs-of-concept for Points of Presence (PoPs), aiming for the release of an MVP.
- Develop an experimental gateway to 44Net, allowing for easier connection.
- Continue to develop our open-source grantmaking software, Hypha.

Communications & Outreach

- Develop an online resource center specifically for 44Net, updating documentation and other materials related to connecting with the network.
- Continue to facilitate our grantees connecting with and supporting one another through ardc.groups.io as well as 1-2 virtual Grantee Gatherings

And that's just a start!

To get involved, ask a question, or share your thoughts about something you'd like to see in 2024, reach out any time: contact@ardc.net



Final Remarks from our President



Since joining the ARDC Board of Directors in 2019, I've been deeply and directly involved in building the organization, serving first as Treasurer, and now as President. In the past four years, I've watched our team evolve and mature in every aspect of our operations – from building an effective grant application review and approval process and shepherding further policy and technical development of 44Net, through improving the efficiency of our annual audits, to now moving into detailed evaluation of prior grants. I expect these trends to continue.

A big focus for 2024 is getting crisper on our vision for evolving the state-of-the-art at the intersection of amateur radio, communication technology, and free software, enabling us to more precisely seek and engage opportunities to further that vision.

None of this would be possible without our staff and volunteers, and what makes all the effort worthwhile is seeing our work effect positive change in the world. To everyone working in support of ARDC's mission, thank you! I look forward to continuing our collaboration, making even greater things happen in the coming year and beyond.

73,

Bdale Garbee – KB0G
President
Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC)
ardc.net

