



2025 Annual Report

Amateur Radio Digital Communications



AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

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Cover Photo: Sarasota Military Academy W4SMA. Credit: W4SMA



Letter from the Executive Director



Hello ARDC Community –

After a number of years of getting our feet under us as stewards of our endowment, 2025 brought with it a couple of welcome shifts. First was the launch of our [vision statement](#); our [strategic approach](#) focused on Learning, Experimenting, and Doing; and our [priority areas of funding](#). As I share a bit more about in a [later section](#), these are already helping us to sharpen our focus with our programs in subtle but important ways.

The second shift is that, for the first time since obtaining our endowment, we've had a full calendar year of operations at a staffing sweet spot. In other words, we have just the right number of people to be able to manage our organization while continuing to focus the vast majority of our resources on our programs. As a result, we were able to hit some important milestones in 2025, like providing a quick turnaround for evaluation and feedback on final grant reports, as well as releasing the long-awaited [44Net Connect](#). In September, we celebrated the 44-year anniversary of 44Net and – thanks to our talented staff – released [a wonderful video about ARDC's origins](#) at the intersection of amateur radio and experimentation with the Internet at the dawn of its existence. I am so proud and pleased and grateful to our staff for their work on these and so much more in 2025.

And of course, none of it would be possible without our amazing team of volunteers. Including our board, ARDC is now supported by over 40 volunteers, all giving their time to ensure that our work is as effective as it can be. It's incredibly humbling and a testament that we are doing our work well. May we continue on this path into 2026, when open source communication technology is more important than ever.

73,

Rosy

Rosy Schechter – KJ7RYV
Executive Director
Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC)
ardc.net



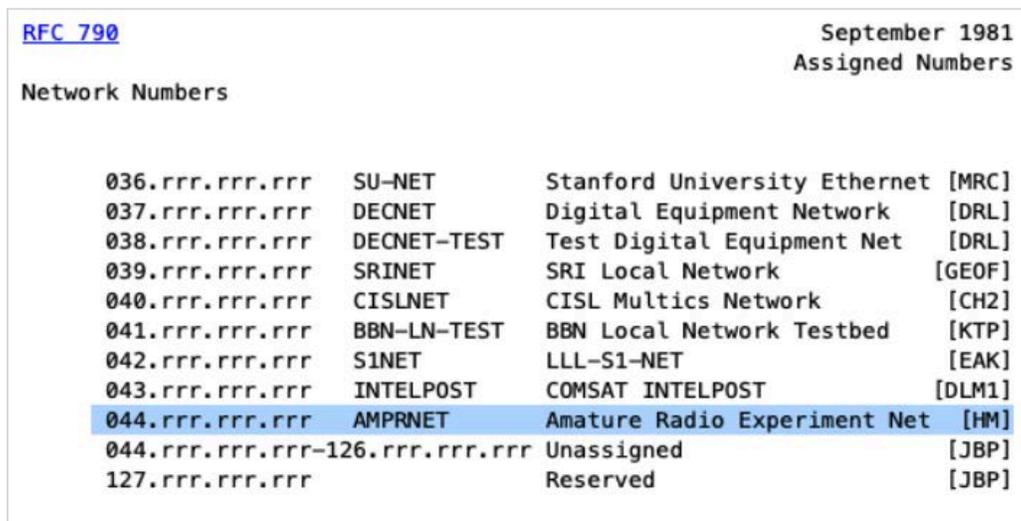
Vision, Strategy, & Priority Areas for Funding

As mentioned in the above letter, in 2025, ARDC announced some important refinements to our overall [mission](#). These ideas help to articulate what we as an organization aim to achieve in the long term.

First, we asked ourselves the question: if we succeed in doing our work, how will the world benefit? What, exactly, are we trying to create or achieve? Our answer is our [vision statement](#):

A thriving global community of learners, experimenters, and contributors advancing freedom with open source communication and information technology.

As concise as this statement is, embedded in it are some philosophies that are core to our roots at the intersection of amateur radio and experimentation.



RFC 790		September 1981 Assigned Numbers	
Network Numbers			
036.000.000.000	SU-NET	Stanford University Ethernet	[MRC]
037.000.000.000	DECNET	Digital Equipment Network	[DRL]
038.000.000.000	DECNET-TEST	Test Digital Equipment Net	[DRL]
039.000.000.000	SRINET	SRI Local Network	[GEOF]
040.000.000.000	CISLNET	CISL Multics Network	[CH2]
041.000.000.000	BBN-LN-TEST	BBN Local Network Testbed	[KTP]
042.000.000.000	SINET	LLL-S1-NET	[EAK]
043.000.000.000	INTELPOST	COMSAT INTELPOST	[DLM1]
044.000.000.000	AMPRNET	Amature Radio Experiment Net	[HM]
044.000.000.000-126.000.000.000		Unassigned	[JBP]
127.000.000.000		Reserved	[JBP]

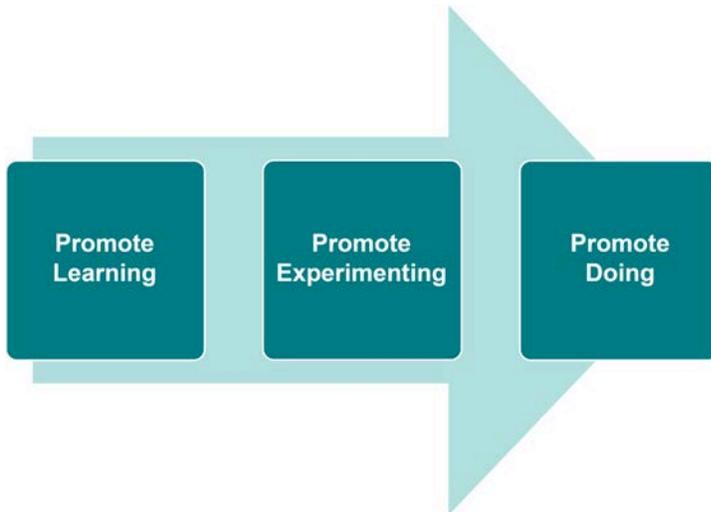
Screenshot from RFC 790, showing the allocation of the 044. address block to “Amature Radio Experiment Net,” managed by Hank Magnuski KA6M.

Namely, we believe:

- That everyone has the right to learn, experiment, and contribute to collaboratively and peacefully building the technologies and communities they wish to see in the world.
- In the freedom to communicate and share information, in service of assisting others.
- In the freedom to tinker and build with little or no gatekeeping.
- In the power of Free Software to enable learning, experimenting, and doing by all people, everywhere, in a way that proprietary products and software generally do not.

Through our work, and empowered by these beliefs, we aim to enable all people, everywhere, to collaborate across borders and to foster international goodwill.





So, how do we bring this vision to life? Our answer is through our [strategic approach](#), where our programs are united in their promotion of learning, experimenting, and doing. All three of these ideas go hand-in-hand. After all, if you can't learn about how to use a radio, how can you do anything with it? And if you're experimenting with building a new protocol, then you are inherently learning in the process – not to mention ideally contributing to knowledge that will help others to learn and do.

When we ask whether a program activity falls inside or outside of our focus, we use these ideas as our guide. When we look at an incoming grant request – or evaluate the success of a grant we've given – we use these ideas as a lens.

The additional lens we view our grant applications through is our **priority areas for funding**. These areas represent subjects where we are likely uniquely capable of making a difference, as they both intersect with our [mission](#) and are unlikely to receive funding from other sources.

- **Research & Development (R&D):** we're looking for open hardware and software systems that enable learning and experimentation (e.g., SDRs, open codec technologies, new modulation techniques).
- **Space-Based Communications:** these projects create or expand access to satellite communications for amateur radio (AR) and digital communications (DC), engaging communities in wireless experimentation. Examples include GEO or HEO programs, repurposed commercial satellites, and space-based tools for learning.
- **Open Source Education:** we dream of a library filled with scalable, open educational materials (like curricula and educational videos) as well as hands-on projects that make AR and DC more accessible, especially for new learners and clubs.

It's important to note that these priorities **do not** replace our open call for proposals. That said, looking ahead into 2026 and beyond, we'll be actively seeking opportunities to support learning, experimenting, and doing in the subjects listed above.

If you have ideas, questions, or suggestions, reach out to us any time: giving@ardc.net.



2025 Organizational Highlights



Members of ARDC Staff, Board of Directors, and Grants Advisory Committee (GAC), Hamvention 2025

ARDC Welcomes Harald Welte to the Board of Directors!



Harald Welte joined ARDC's Board of Directors on July 25. He brings decades of experience in wireless and digital communications, open source development, and technology leadership. His background includes foundational work in [netfilter/iptables](#), contributions to the [Chaos Computer Club \(CCC\)](#), significant efforts in open mobile communications through [Openmoko](#), OpenBSC, and the [Osmocom](#) project, and ongoing support for open cellular protocol stacks through his company [sysmocom](#). Widely recognized for his GPL enforcement work and contributions to free software, Harald brings valuable expertise and international perspectives to

ARDC's board, helping strengthen our connections across global digital communications communities. You can learn more about him in the related blog post:

<https://www.ardc.net/harald-welte-joins-ardcs-board-of-directors/>.



Highlights by Department

Grantmaking

- The GAC reviewed 268 proposals, of which 79 were ultimately funded.
- ARDC distributed about [\\$3.4 million](#) to organizations whose projects and programs align with our goals.
- ARDC has now funded 386 projects!
- We conservatively estimate that our 2025 grants will directly impact at least 16,718 people. This number is found by adding up the size of project teams and their project outreach goals. When a goal seems particularly ambitious or ambiguous we omit it.

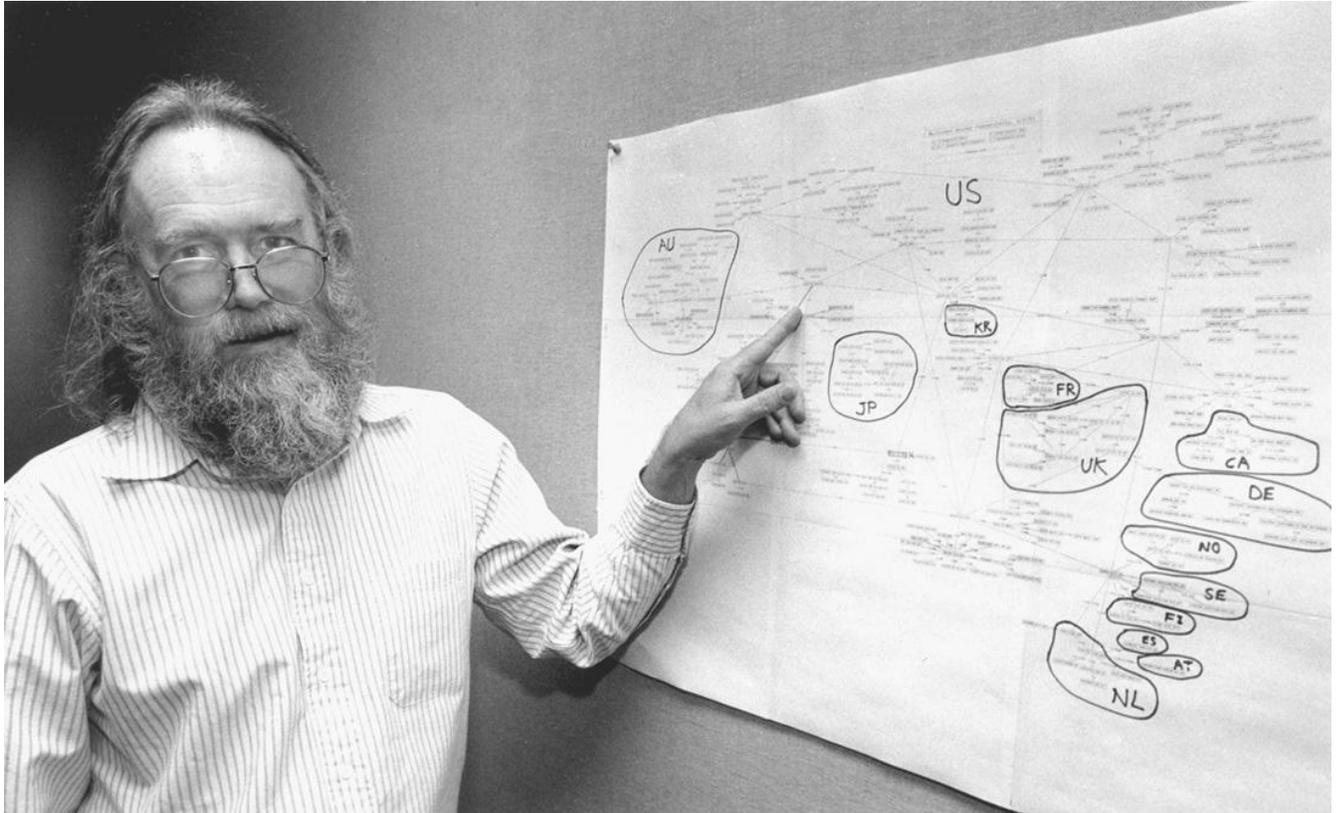
More information is available in the [Detailed Look at Grants](#) section.

44Net and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Work

- The “PoP Subcommittee” launched [44Net Connect](#), managed early onboarding, produced documentation, and provided operational support.
- The developer experience for the open-source Portal was extended to include utilities and documentation to support developer contributions.
- The TAC supported volunteer initiatives, including efforts to integrate 44Net tools into other platforms, such as OpenWRT.
- The TAC helped develop shared operational practices for verification, support, and coordination.



Outreach & Communications



Jon Postel, a key contributor to 44Net's history, and who you can learn more about in [The 44Net Origin Story](#).
Photo CC-BY-SA Wikimedia Commons.

- In September, we launched our [YouTube](#) channel, with [The 44Net Origin Story](#) as our first video. As of December 2025, we reached 89 subscribers.
- We strengthened our outreach in 2025 by attending a wide range of events, including [Hamvention 2025](#) with staff and most of our board members. We also attended new amateur radio events such as the inaugural [Zero Retries Digital Conference \(ZRDC\)](#) and the [AMSAT Space Symposium](#). Additionally, we extended our international reach by returning to [HAM RADIO](#) (Germany) and [JARL Ham Fair](#) (Japan), as well as making our debut at the [RSGB 2025 Convention](#) (UK). We also expanded into adjacent communities through [PEAK Grantmaking](#), [NANOG 94](#), [Open Sauce Live](#), and [HOPE 16](#).
- Our [newsletter](#) saw steady growth this year, increasing to 1085 subscribers.
- [ardc.groups.io](#) continued to grow throughout 2025 and reached 1459 subscribers.
- Our social media presence continued to expand in 2025, climbing to 1035 [Facebook](#), 997 [Twitter / X](#), and 1303 [LinkedIn](#) followers.



2025 Financial Overview

In 2025, we awarded approximately 76 grants and 29 charitable gifts, distributing approximately \$3.4 million. More exact numbers will be provided with our 2025 audited financial statement and associated IRS filing, which will be shared later in 2026.

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

Year	Accrual	Cash
2025	~\$3 M	~\$3.4M
2024	\$3,421,327	\$4,029,781
2023	\$6,345,764	\$5,880,342
2022	\$6,904,678	\$8,004,191
2021	\$10,798,573	\$9,247,203
2020	\$3,155,532	\$3,004,625

As the table above illustrates, in 2024 and 2025 we spent less on grants than we did in most prior years. In service of maintaining our endowment and its spending power for the long-term, we have decided to target a 4.5% annual distribution over the next few years. 2024 was the first year that we put this into practice. This will help balance our average of ~6.2% distribution rate and bring us back to an average distribution that’s closer to the 5% requirement. We also estimate that by the end of 2025, our excess distribution will be reduced from ~\$5.2 million to an estimated ~\$3.5 million.

More exact values for 2025 will be available after we complete our yearly audit and file our 2025 990-PF. For past 990s and financial statements, please visit: <https://www.ardc.net/about/legal/ardc-finances/>.

To get a deep dive into our most recent tax return (2024) and learn more about how cash and accrual accounting apply to our yearly distribution, check out this [blog post](#).



Detailed Look at Grants

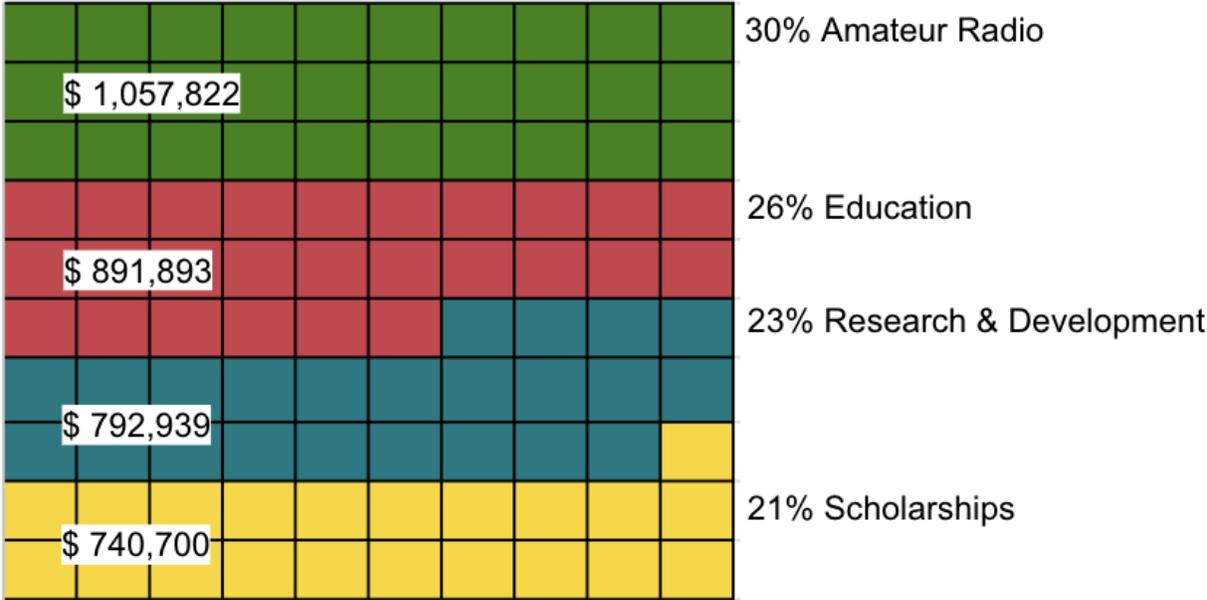
Total amount distributed in 2025: about \$3.6 million

See [2025 Financial Overview](#) for more information about these totals.

Since the inception of ARDC’s grantmaking program, we have impacted over 127,000 people worldwide. You can read full descriptions of our 2025 awarded grants [on our website](#).

We continued to see an increase in demand for ARDC grants, which in 2025 led to a reduction in our median grant size, from \$27,000 to \$19,600. Our largest grants were on a smaller scale as well. Ultimately, 30% of proposals submitted to us were selected for funding.

The below charts show how funded projects are distributed across [ARDC’s Categories](#): Amateur Radio, Education, Scholarships, and Research & Development.

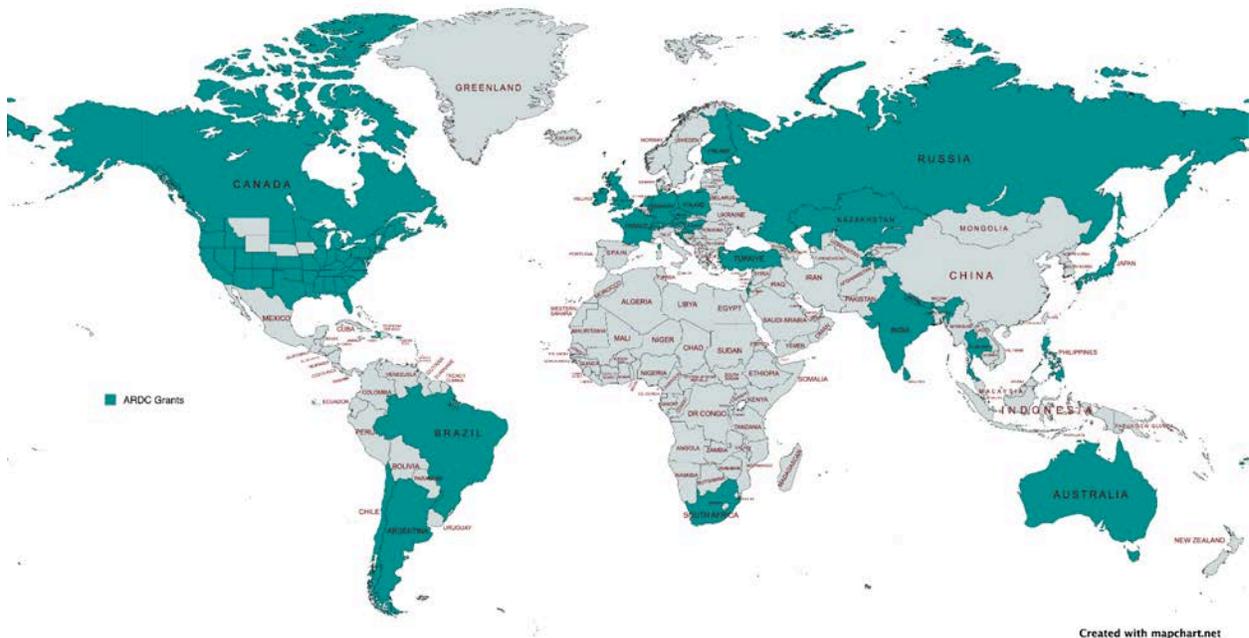


Granting Category	Dollars Given	No. Grants	Percent of funding
Amateur Radio	\$1,057,822	38	30%
Education	\$891,893	27	26%
Research & Development	\$792,939	10	23%
Scholarships	\$740,700	4	21%

Compared to last year, we spent a smaller proportion of our funds on R&D (42% in 2024, 23% in 2025) instead, more funds went to amateur radio and education projects. R&D remains a priority area focus for ARDC, and we funded the same number of R&D projects. These happened to be lower cost than in prior years.

In 2025, we funded our largest number of international grants yet – 22 out of 79, or 28% of our funded projects. We can attribute this achievement to the result of targeted outreach by the 44Net community and our other volunteers. Countries reached by ARDC expanded to include France, Israel, and Great Britain. We also deepened engagement by working with new groups in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Finland, and French speaking Canada.

We also had success with reaching more US states, particularly in the south.



Countries impacted by ARDC Grants (2019-2025)



Amateur Radio



BCAFMA replaced their 50 year old duplexer with a new 6 cavity.

Amateur radio projects selected for funding in 2025 had strong outreach plans, often included an element of adult education, and demonstrated evidence of active groups supporting the work.

Highlight: The Butler County Amateur FM Association (BCAFMA) is a club north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, [who received a \\$7,000 grant](#). Though awarded in 2025, they have already wrapped up their project to replace their duplexer – sharing in their final report that “around 100 people currently benefit from our repeater’s increase in range, and hopefully many more in the near future.” BCAFMA members use the network for hiking, boating, community service, and emergency communications.

Amateur Radio Projects	Amount
La Fédération des clubs radioamateurs du Québec <i>Parts for Motorola Quantar Repeaters</i>	\$27,500 CAD
Funding of components needed to refurbish and distribute several Motorola Quantar repeaters to amateur radio clubs across Quebec.	
Philippine Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (PAREDN) via Fondation Open Collective Europe <i>Winlink / BBS Gateway Project</i>	\$5,500 USD
Expansion of PAREDN's Winlink and BBS gateway network in the Philippines to improve digital emergency communications.	
Lehi Amateur Radio Club <i>Cedar Valley Project</i>	\$5,174 USD
Build a new repeater site in Cedar Valley that restores reliable repeater coverage to the area.	



UFB New England <i>UFB New England System Upgrades</i>	\$35,725 USD
Expands and repairs a multi site digital repeater network by adding a new site and upgrading key existing sites to improve capabilities.	
Radio Amateur du-of Québec, INC via A.R.E.S. Association Radio Expérimentale du Sud de Québec <i>A.R.E.S. New repeater site</i>	\$43,845 CAD
Funds a new solar-powered VHF repeater on Mont Blanc to extend ARES's network into an unserved region, improve emergency communication for hikers and local agencies.	
Ham Radio Village Inc. <i>Amateur Radio Evangelist 2025</i>	\$18,060 USD
Supported Ham Radio Village in expanding its national effort that delivers engaging talks, hands-on classes, and free license exam sessions at technical, hacking, maker, and STEM events.	
Electronic Applications Radio Service <i>YOTA Junior USA Camp 2025</i>	\$20,181 USD
Funding to host the 2025 Youth On The Air Junior USA Camp to promote youth involvement in amateur radio.	
Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club Inc. <i>DART Repeater Upgrade</i>	\$26,743 USD
Replaces old repeater equipment and improves network links to improve repeater reliability.	
Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness <i>69Bravo Communications Hub Upgrade</i>	\$20,891 USD
Upgrades and consolidates TCEP's radio systems at 69 Bravo into a dedicated, hardened communications hub, expanding capacity, improving reliability during wildfires and outages.	
Radiokomunikacja Kryzysowa (Rescue Radio Communication) via Foundation Open Collective Europe <i>Hamnet Expansion in Lublin district area</i>	\$8,693 USD
Expands Hamnet into the Lublin district to improve local coverage, extend network coverage to rural users, and support youth engagement through school outreach and a revived radio club.	



<p>La fédération des clubs radioamateurs du Québec via Radio Amateur du-Of Québec, INC <i>CRASOI Satellite earth Station</i></p> <p>Builds a dedicated satellite ground station so CRASOI can train operators, support digital satellite work, and contribute real data and monitoring to others.</p>	<p>\$19,216 CAD</p>
<p>Porter County Amateur Radio Club Inc. <i>Northwest Indiana Radio Outreach and Revitalization Project</i></p> <p>Build a mobile radio communications trailer that will help expand outreach, education and emergency communications.</p>	<p>\$27,462 USD</p>
<p>Estero Radio Club Inc. <i>Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club - San Luis Obispo County AREDN Backbone Build-out</i></p> <p>Upgrade and expand the San Luis Obispo (SLO) AREDN backbone mesh network with modern 802.11AC radios, RF backbone links, and battery backups.</p>	<p>\$77,000 USD</p>
<p>Pleasant Valley Telecommunications Advisory Council-Pvtac <i>10 GHz Microwave interconnect plus a new VHF/UHF Simulcast Repeater - Resubmittal</i></p> <p>Establish microwave backbone and mixed-mode VHF/UHF simulcast system to replace aging infrastructure to improve emergency communications.</p>	<p>\$170,356 USD</p>
<p>The Pennsylvania State University <i>Skyhawk Antenna Reinstall</i></p> <p>Repairs and reinstalls the club's fallen HF antenna so students can restore reliable on campus operating and return the station to full use.</p>	<p>\$2,628 USD</p>
<p>Boundary Amateur Radio Club Inc. <i>New Radios for Volunteer Fire Departments in Boundary County, Upgrades for the Boundary Community Hospital, and Other Improvements</i></p> <p>Supports in person and online license classes, electronics and SDR based activities, weather balloon tracking, scouting programs, and provides exam fees and basic radios for newly licensed youth.</p>	<p>\$9,394 USD</p>



<p>La Fédération des clubs radioamateurs via du Québec Radio Amateur du-of Québec, INC.</p> <p><i>2025 Trans-Quebec RF Network v3</i></p> <p>Repairing, upgrading, and expanding a province wide linked repeater network by replacing aging equipment, restoring damaged sites, and adding new repeaters.</p>	<p>\$101,581 CAD</p>
<p>Milford Amateur Radio Club</p> <p><i>Digital Coverage Expansion Project</i></p> <p>Relocating an existing digital Wires-X repeater to a higher performance site and upgrading supporting equipment to significantly expand coverage across the Greater Cincinnati area.</p>	<p>\$16,181 USD</p>
<p>Jay County Amateur Radio Club Inc.</p> <p><i>JCARC Building Renovation & Outfitting</i></p> <p>Renovation and outfitting of an existing building to create a permanent amateur radio clubhouse with meeting space, training areas, license testing facilities, and fixed on air operating positions.</p>	<p>\$39,334 USD</p>
<p>St. Croix Valley Ares-Races Inc.</p> <p><i>Roberts Repeater Relocation</i></p> <p>Relocation of an amateur radio repeater to a county owned tower so it can continue operating reliably.</p>	<p>\$11,040 USD</p>
<p>Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society, Inc.</p> <p><i>LMARS 146.805 MHz repeater upgrade and relocation to new state of the art regional hospital</i></p> <p>Upgrading and relocating the LMARS repeater to a new regional hospital site, restoring and expanding VHF coverage.</p>	<p>\$9,179 USD</p>
<p>Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club Inc</p> <p><i>OVARC VHF Repeater Revitalization Project</i></p> <p>Replace a failing repeater shelter and supporting infrastructure, add emergency power, repair antennas, and restore a reliable VHF repeater site to keep the system on the air.</p>	<p>\$24,750 USD</p>
<p>New England Sci-Tech Inc</p> <p><i>Attracting More Youth to Amateur Radio through high-tech digital applications</i></p> <p>Expand youth education programs through hands-on workshops, scouting labs, and balloon launches.</p>	<p>\$42,565 USD</p>



Western Lake Superior Amateur Responders <i>Funding for Emergency Communications and for Funding other Amateur Radio Organizations</i>	\$28,282 USD
Upgrade repeater with backup power, antennas, and deploy AREDN for emergency communications.	
The Radio Society of Sri Lanka via Fondation Open Collective Europe <i>Emergency Communication Resilience Project</i>	\$88,000 USD
Strengthen emergency preparedness in Sri Lanka by deploying solar-powered radio stations and training communities in amateur radio.	
PIMA Community College Foundation Inc. <i>PIMA Community College Radio Shack</i>	\$12,268 USD
Equipping a permanent HF and VHF/UHF shack at Pima Community College with radios, antennas, basic test equipment, and professionally installed antennas.	
Butler County Amateur FM Association <i>BCAFMA Duplexer</i>	\$7,000 USD
Replacing an aging repeater duplexer so the system can run properly and reach more users, including handheld stations.	
South Mountain Repeater Association, Inc. AKA South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) <i>Amateur Radio Educational Program Focused on Getting the Technician Class License and Building Community Communications Resiliency</i>	\$19,186 USD
Offer Technician license classes, provide basic radios to new operators, and add VHF/UHF/DMR and HF equipment to improve local emergency and community communications.	
Dimension Parabole F4KLO via Fondation Open Collective Europe <i>Promote Hamradio, EME and radioastronomy via French sciences museum and schools</i>	\$22,000 USD
Support hands-on demonstrations of amateur radio, Earth-Moon-Earth communication, and radio astronomy through a restored radio telescope.	
West Central Louisiana Amateur Radio Club <i>West Central Louisiana Repair and Small Buildout</i>	\$6,723 USD
Repair and upgrade storm-damaged amateur radio infrastructure to restore local communications and support emergency and community use.	



Half Moon Bay Amateur Radio Club <i>Coastside Emergency Communications Trailer</i>	\$25,000 USD
Build a self-contained emergency communications trailer with multiple radios and off grid power to support public outreach.	
Hot Springs Amateur Radio Club <i>Hot Springs Amateur Radio Club Education & Repeater Expansion</i>	\$11,730 USD
Expand rural repeater coverage and provide licensing and hands-on training for new amateur radio operators, with a focus on youth education and emergency communications readiness.	
Northwest New Mexico Emcomm Group <i>Enhancing Community Communications: Winlink VARA FM and Starlink Integrated Digipeater/RMS Solution</i>	\$7,100 USD
Supports the deployment of a digipeater system with starlink internet connection. The system will provide coverage across Northwest New Mexico, Southwest Colorado and a northeastern region of the Navajo Nation.	
Ellis County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Group via Stem Harvest Inc. <i>Ellis County ARES Digital Radio Expansion Project</i>	\$13,950 USD
Expand digital amateur radio coverage to improve emergency communications and regional connectivity in a rural area.	
Trilogy Amateur Radio Club <i>New VHF Repeater</i>	\$9,143 USD
Install a new VHF repeater to improve emergency communications and general amateur radio coverage across the region.	
Utah Tech University Amateur Radio S-band Ground Station <i>Utah Tech University Amateur Radio S-band Ground Station</i>	\$13,176 USD
Building an S-band ground station to support CubeSat missions and hands-on STEM outreach.	
Club radio amateur de Matane (via Radio Amateur du-of Québec) <i>Matane, Quebec Club HF Station III</i>	\$12,120 CAD
Install a club HF station to support training, public demonstrations, and resilient long-distance communications.	



Replace outdated repeater equipment at two sites with modern VHF/UHF systems to improve reliability and reduce maintenance.

Education

93% of ARDC’s 2025 education grants aim to benefit youth, including college students, as a main or target audience.

Highlight: Sarasota Military Academy [received a 2025 ARDC grant](#), and ended up with a larger number of cadets wishing to enroll in “Intro to Amateur Radio and Electronics” than they could accommodate. They applied for supplies to start a pilot amateur radio elective course and are now going to continue to offer the popular course in 2026. One unexpected outcome of the grant - staff licensing from teachers not directly involved with the program. After hosting the first class, “a surprising number [of staff] have decided to begin studying for their licensing examinations.”

Grantees often describe to ARDC staff the value of the interpersonal parts of participating in a grant project. These outcomes are impossible to quantify, but we hear over and over how a grant has revitalized a club, brought friends together, or inspired someone on a deeply personal level.



Photo of students at the Sarasota Military Academy.



Education Projects	Amount
Apex Friendship Middle School <i>What's the Frequency?</i> Funded purchasing of radio kits that enable eighth grade engineering students to learn hands-on about radio technology.	\$1,783 USD
Fondation Open Collective Europe via 39th Colombo Scout Troop of S. Thomas' Preparatory School Colombo 3 <i>4S6STP - Amateur Radio Station</i> Equips a new Scout-run school station in Sri Lanka and provides training for youth operators.	\$2,420 USD
Portal Middle High School <i>Amateur Radio in the Classroom</i> Brings amateur radio into a school engineering program by building antennas, setting up a classroom station, and partnering with local radio operators for training.	\$1,370 USD
World Genesis Foundation <i>Youth Radio Science Club</i> Expand free amateur radio and STEAM programs that provide licensing, hands-on projects, and community events for students and families.	\$20,000 USD
Parents of 1776 Organization <i>Enhancing STEM Education on the High Seas: Upgrading ICOM 735 for Scout Programs</i> Upgrade a sailboat's radio equipment and continue STEM education involving amateur radio.	\$7,000 USD
Internet Archive <i>Expanding the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications</i> Expand DLARC by digitizing more materials and increasing outreach to preserve and provide free access to amateur radio resources.	\$638,220 USD
Southeast Community Development Corporation <i>SCDC Youth Electronics Academy</i> Provides hands-on STEM education with FM radio and soldering kits to amateur radio education.	\$46,272 USD



Battiest Public Schools	\$3,303
<i>Making air waves in the Classroom</i>	USD

Equipment for students and community members in rural Oklahoma can learn radio basics, earn licenses, and practice communication skills for education and local emergency readiness.

Information Age Learning Center via Computer Deconstruction Laboratory	\$88,678
<i>Digital Communications Enhancement</i>	USD

Funding for a makerspace to upgrade its antennas, communications systems, and facility infrastructure so it can expand public programs and support more radio and technology activities.

Teachers in Space, Inc.	\$110,107
<i>Pathways to Space</i>	USD

Train teachers to use amateur radio technology to track satellites, communicate with spacecraft, and teach students about its role in aerospace communications.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of River Forest	\$12,839
<i>Airwaves & Outdoors: Engaging Youth in Amateur Radio Through POTA & SOTA</i>	USD

Parks on the Air and Summits on the Air to give students practical radio experience through outdoor activities and build technical skills.

West Seneca Christian School	\$6,145
<i>Club Development Project</i>	USD

Build a school amateur radio station that gets students on the air, supports STEAM learning, and encourages new young operators through hands-on activities and licensing support.

Ontario Tech University	\$19,053
<i>Ontario Tech Amateur Radio Dual Band (VHF & UHF) Mobile Repeater + Ground Station</i>	CAD

Develop a mobile amateur radio repeater system to support reliable long-range communication and telemetry during rocket launches at Launch Canada.



STEM Amateur Radio Club <i>Youth Hobby for the 21st Century #3</i>	\$18,075 USD
Supports hands-on youth education in amateur radio through portable field operations, classroom STEM experiments, pico balloon launches, and preparation for amateur radio licensing.	
Valencia County Amateur Radio Association, Inc. <i>Support of Valencia Middle School's Amateur Radio Program</i>	\$24,570 USD
Funds student radios, license materials and exams, classroom supplies, repeater connectivity, and field trips to support and expand Valencia Middle School's amateur radio classes.	
Fondation Open Collective Europe via Thanet Radio Infrastructure Group & Hilderstone Radio Society <i>Remote HF Station for Education and Youth Engagement</i>	25,868 GBP
Remote HF station for education and youth engagement, providing schools and youth groups across the UK hands on access to HF operating.	
Black Girls Do Engineer Corporation <i>Radio Reimagined: Empowering Brooklyn Youth Through Amateur Radio & Digital Communications</i>	\$25,000 USD
Teaches Brooklyn youth amateur radio and digital communications through hands-on workshops, licensing classes, and student projects.	
The Innovation School <i>Waves of Innovation: A Digital Communications Makerspace for Middle School</i>	\$5,000 USD
Give middle school students hands-on experience with amateur radio and SDRs through project based learning.	
Case Amateur Radio Club of Case Western Reserve University W8EDU <i>Engineering Undergraduate Senior Project Support</i>	\$3,500 USD
Provide materials and lab support for undergraduate engineering senior projects focused on amateur radio research and experimentation, with results released openly.	
The Leffell School <i>The Leffell School Space Program Ground Station</i>	\$31,200 USD
Build a student-run satellite ground station to support hands-on learning with amateur radio.	



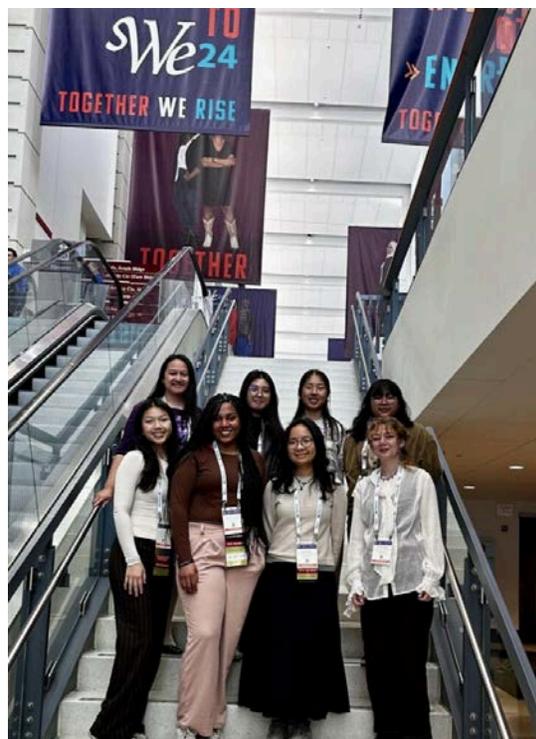
Central Kansas Amateur Radio Club Inc. <i>FieldLab WØCY</i>	\$35,640 USD
Create a mobile STEM/AR lab serving underserved communities across rural Kansas.	
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (RARS) <i>Space Communications Outreach Portable Ground Station</i>	\$14,065 USD
Establish a portable amateur radio satellite ground station to support ARISS contacts and hands-on space communications demonstrations for schools and youth groups.	
Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut <i>New Class Opportunities</i>	\$7,051 USD
Expand hands-on electronics and amateur radio classes for youth by adding hands-on courses and related instructional materials.	
Seagull Solar LTD <i>Seagull Solar Racing Team</i>	\$7,509 USD
The Seagull Solar Racing Team is a high school solar car team in New York City. This grant enables them to add amateur radio to their student activities, which reach 25 - 30 students annually.	
Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) <i>How Satellites in Space Help Us Improve Our Lives on Earth Coloring Book</i>	\$4,500 USD
Create a free, open-access coloring book that introduces students to how satellites support daily life and communications, including amateur radio.	
Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation <i>Youth Initiative Online Courses - Authoring Licenses & Artwork Enhancement</i>	\$14,556 USD
Develop and publish a free open-access series of online courses for middle and high school students that introduce satellite technology.	
Electronic Applications Radio Service, INC <i>2023 - 2025 Youth on the Air (YOTA-Americas) Camp - Part C</i>	\$10,662 USD
Funding to host the Youth On The Air Camp to promote youth involvement in amateur radio.	



Scholarships

In 2025, ARDC funded scholarships through four programs, bringing our all-time total to 396 ARDC-funded individual scholarship recipients. All of our funded programs make selections based on a mix of need and merit. The [ARRL Scholarships](#) select students who are involved in amateur radio, whereas the other scholarship programs prioritize students pursuing degrees related to amateur radio, such as many of our scholarship recipients from the [Society of Women Engineers \(SWE\)](#). Many students write to us to let us know that they could not attend college without scholarship assistance.

Highlight: Society of Women Engineers (SWE), like many of our scholarship programs, provides additional support to students to help them be successful in their educational journey. SWE's Community College Affiliate Support and Expansion (CCASE) Program helps students in community college with improving their resumes, practicing elevator pitches, and hosting panels composed of past SWE members who have successfully transferred to four-year universities. These practices are based on a research study that SWE conducted on what would be most effective for assisting students with reaching their goals of attaining a bachelor's degree and working in an engineering field. The picture above shows students who participated in the 2024 CCASE program, which was funded by ARDC as a part of our scholarships.



Participants from the SWE 2024 CCASE program.

Scholarships	Amount
ARRL Foundation <i>ARRL Scholarships PART 3</i>	\$507,500 USD
Final payment of \$507,500 for three total years to fund the ARDC Scholarship. Total request is \$1,522,500 over three years.	
Society of Women Engineers <i>SWE 2025 Programs</i>	\$146,200 USD
Supports scholarships and educational supports, including 20 scholarships for students in India.	



American Indian Science and Engineering Society
ARDC Scholarship Program

\$72,000
USD

Provide scholarships and support for students pursuing STEM degrees related to amateur radio in the 2026-2027 academic year.

OMIK Scholarship Fund
FY July 2025 - June 2026 Scholarship Funding

\$15,000
USD

Provide need-based scholarships for post-secondary students, with preference for STEAM fields.

Research & Development (R&D)

In 2025, ARDC made 10 grants in the Research & Development category. All of ARDC's supported research projects are open source. The R&D projects focus on improving or developing new digital communications or amateur radio tools and technology.

Highlight: Particularly notable was a proposal from OpenMesh Voice Network. They plan to build an open-source mesh network that supports real-time voice, exceeding the limits of current text-based mesh systems. The team plans to use AI-powered codecs and SDR hardware to deliver audio over low cost nodes. The project will result in a low-cost ESP32 and RF frontend that can be hooked up to a radio to create a digital mesh voice node.



Dennis Akos from Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder, at the 18.3m antenna feed cavity with the new EVE 25 system inside. Photo courtesy of DSES.



Research & Development Projects	Amount
Rhizomatica Communications <i>Finalizing an Open Source Digital HF Network Stack and Modem</i>	\$235,045 USD
<p>Finishes the open source Mercury HF modem and makes the full HERMES digital HF system easier to install and use.</p>	
Fondation Open Collective Europe via LibreCube <i>Open Source VHF/UHF CubeSat Communication System</i>	76,890 EUR
<p>Creates an open source, fully redundant VHF/UHF communications board for CubeSats and educational space systems.</p>	
Software Freedom Conservancy Inc. <i>SFC Renewal Proposal for Copyleft Advocacy, Compliance and Enforcement</i>	\$175,000 USD
<p>Continuation of GPL compliance and enforcement.</p>	
Alberta Digital Radio Communications Society <i>IP400 Network Project</i>	\$60,000 USD
<p>Develop a high speed OFDM-based digital modem for the 400 MHz amateur radio band, enabling significantly higher data rates and modern digital linking capabilities.</p>	
Foundation Open Collective Europe via Hämeenlinnan Radioamatöörit ry <i>Hamlib stability enhancements and SDR transceiver support</i>	82,000 EUR
<p>Improve the stability and release quality of Hamlib through the development of an automated testing framework, and to expand Hamlib to support modern network controlled and software defined radio transceivers.</p>	
Fondation Open Collective Europe (Wildfiremesh) <i>Meshtastic for Wildfire fighters in Argentina</i>	\$62,775 USD
<p>Deploy Meshtastic nodes for wildfire fighters in Argentina, improving off grid digital communications when cellular and traditional radio systems fail.</p>	
Ege University <i>Energy-Aware Link Monitoring in Wireless IoT Networks Using Vertex Cover-Based Algorithms</i>	\$10,575 USD
<p>Research on developing an ESP32-based framework for link monitoring in mesh wireless networks in Turkey.</p>	



Illinois Space Society	\$5,766
<i>Student Development of High-Altitude Tracking Systems for Space-Bound Vehicles</i>	USD

Design and build a portable, high performance ground station for tracking and communicating with high altitude student rocket flights.

Foundation Open Collective Europe	\$33,000
OpenMesh Voice Network	USD
<i>OpenMesh Voice Network</i>	

Build and test an open source 70 cm mesh network that supports real time voice and basic data.

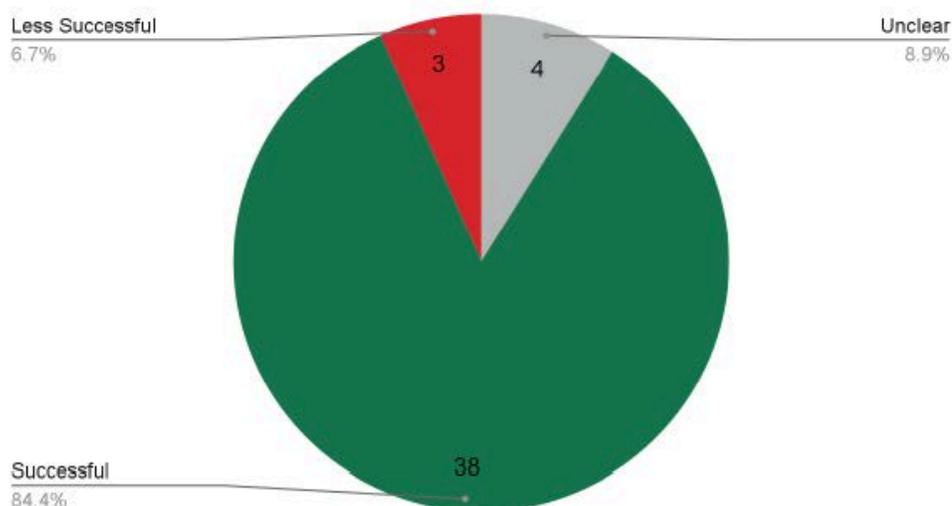
Offworld Lab	\$19,632
<i>Legal Framework for Open-Source Passive Radar Networks</i>	USD

Legal advisory to establish clear regulations for open-source passive radar development in the U.S.



Grants Evaluation Team (GET) Public Findings

Final reports submitted between April 2024 and May 2025



Many in our community ask which ARDC-funded grants have been the most successful. To help answer this, ARDC launched the [Grants Evaluation Team \(GET\)](#) in 2024 to review completed grant projects and compile their findings into an annual [report](#) that we are pleased to share.

In their 2025 analysis, the GET reviewed 45 final reports from projects funded between April 2024 and May 2025, identifying key trends and insights during biweekly meetings. Rather than conducting a formal evaluation, the team sought to provide multiple perspectives on the grants, highlight important takeaways for the community, and answer three core questions:

- Were these grant projects a good use of ARDC funds?
- Were these grant projects successful?
- What information about these grants should be shared back with our community?

Their findings showed that the majority of ARDC-funded projects successfully advanced our [goals](#), as 84% of grant projects were deemed clearly successful. We saw a dramatic drop in unclear outcomes after implementing recommended changes last year – down from 22% unclear outcomes in 2024 to 8% in 2025. A number of particularly useful materials created by grantees were identified that will be shared in a future learning center on our website.

We look forward to using the GET's findings to continue to improve our granting process, including working with projects before they come to a close to provide them with assistance and support their success.

For a deeper dive into the GET's findings, you can check out the full report here: <https://www.ardc.net/wp-content/uploads/2025-GET-Report-Public-version.pdf>.



44Net Stewardship

In 2025, work on 44Net focused on strengthening technical and community foundations to support greater participation. ARDC’s Tech Team completed an infrastructure refresh; the “PoP Project” team launched [44Net Connect](#); and staff gathered insights from across the community that will help shape the direction of 44Net’s development.

Much of this work was carried out through working meetings, documentation, testing, and peer support, providing entry points for community members to contribute and gradually take on greater responsibility.

Participation

Volunteers

By the end of 2025, more than 35 community members held privileges to handle Portal tickets and user support functions, working alongside staff. This distributed capacity reduced reliance on sole individuals and helped sustain day-to-day operations as participation levels increased.

Interest in formal volunteer roles also increased substantially during 2025, with Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) applications rising from nine for the 2025 committee to more than 40 for 2026. The TAC currently seats 11 members.

Users

Raw counts are an imperfect measure, but they signal increasing interest in participation.

		2023	2024	2025
Portal Users	New	631	1,094 +73%	1,500 +37%
	Total	2,152	3,246 +51%	4,746 +46%
Assigned Subnets	New	345	633 +83%	699 +10%
	Total	2,456	3,097 +26%	3,796 +23%

Source: Portal data, 2026-02-02. The current version of the Portal was used privately before public launch in 2024. Figures do not include unregistered legacy assignments and are therefore approximate. Percentages represent change from prior year.



Technical Foundations

In the first part of the year, the team concentrated on building new service infrastructure to support long-term sustainability. This work reduced risks associated with reliance on undocumented practices and individual knowledge, making it possible for current and future contributors to maintain core systems consistently over time. Where systems were managed through careful, largely manual work by individuals in 2024, they are now defined in code that is inspectable, version-controlled, automated, and documented. This architecture supported planned transitions and repeatable deployment processes, facilitating service migration while allowing users and volunteers to continue their work without significant disruption.

Coverage Matrix

	2024 Individual-dependent	2025 Team-enabled
Core Services and IT	1-2 Maintainers Ad-Hoc Documentation	Shared Maintenance In-repo Documentation
Portal Application	Single Maintainer Limited Documentation	Multiple Contributors In-repo Documentation
IPIP Mesh Gateway	Single Maintainer Limited Documentation	Multiple Contributors In-repo Documentation

Portal Development

Portal development was paused during the service migration. Over the summer, development resumed with the project at its new home on [44Net's GitLab server](#). New documentation and tooling for developers reduced obstacles to contributing. Interface and workflow changes helped reduce friction for both users and administrators. New features include support for providing authentication for other projects, with 44Net Connect as its first customer.

Portal Contributions

Open licensing of the Portal source code enabled new community participation in development.

	2023	2024	2025
Contributors	1	2	6
Merge Requests	—	—	14

Source: <https://git.ampr.org/>



“The PoP Project” Becomes 44Net Connect

In November, staff and volunteers launched 44Net Connect, an open-source, self-service WireGuard-based system for bringing 44Net IP addresses to modern devices.

By the end of December 2025, 466 users had registered for the new service. Of these, 444 were first-time Portal users who created a Connect tunnel as their first successful action. This group accounted for almost 30% of all new users in 2025, indicating that Connect became a significant driver of new participation in its first seven weeks of operation.

Six nodes across North America and Europe currently manage the load, with work underway to support additional nodes as new participants have volunteered to contribute additional capacity.

44Net Connect: Early Impacts

Adoption		Participation		Stewardship	
466	413	444	215	5	5
Users Registered	Tunnels Created	First-time Users	Mailing List Subscribers	Active Contributors	Active Administrators

Source: 44Net Connect and Portal data as of 2025-12-31.

Paths to Participation

Until late 2025, access to 44Net was limited to BGP-announced subnets and the IPIP Mesh. 44Net Connect added a third path, enabling participation from newer devices and in network environments where BGP and IPIP Mesh are difficult to deploy. By the end of the year, Connect accounted for more than one in ten assigned 44Net subnets.

Subnet Assignments by Access Method

	End of 2023	End of 2024	End of 2025
IPIP Mesh	1,544 (63%)	2,003 (65%)	2,556 (58%)
BGP	912 (37%)	1,093 (35%)	1,239 (28%)
44Net Connect	—	—	643 (14%)

Source: 44Net Connect and Portal data, as of 2026-02-02. Percentages represent share of access method per year.



Community Engagement and Learning

A central focus throughout the year was listening and learning. Community input came through mailing lists, working groups, one-on-one conversations, and extended in-person discussions at hamfests and conferences. Staff spent dozens of hours working with users, community leaders, and regional coordinators to understand local practices and support ongoing projects.

This engagement often translated into early participation, including more than 50 in-person signups for 44Net Connect's beta service at community events. Sustained mailing list activity and regular working sessions also supported collaboration among volunteer efforts, including the TAC and the 44Net Connect team.

Spotlighting Success

Staff sought to understand how successful groups organized themselves and shared responsibilities. This work identified common practices that can inform a deliberate, principles-based approach to future governance and coordination.

In many cases, active projects were found to be largely unknown outside their local communities, making 44Net appear quieter than it actually is. This visibility gap points to an opportunity to help participants more readily discover projects they can learn from, contribute to, and adopt themselves.

Gauging Engagement

Area	Indicators
In-person engagement	11+ relevant events
New participation	50+ in-person signups
Ongoing collaboration	Weekly/Monthly working sessions
Operational support	35+ volunteers ~4 verifications per day
Community health	0 conduct complaints
Volunteer retention	7 of 8 eligible returning to TAC

Source: Internal records and Portal data, 2025.

Trust-forward

Community engagement in 2025 was marked by trust and stability. No formal conduct complaints were recorded, and discussions in multiple venues remained constructive. Participants regularly exchanged technical knowledge and collaborated on new project ideas, reinforcing shared norms of problem-solving and mutual support.

Engagement from incumbent volunteers remained strong, suggesting satisfaction with the roles and desire to continue. For new volunteers, staff worked across all internal teams to better coordinate onboarding, with the goal of making pathways into volunteer roles more accessible.

More information on the 44Net program is available at <http://ampr.org/>. Questions about volunteering, building networks, or starting projects can be directed to contact@ardc.net.



Outreach and Engagement

Conferences and Hamfests



Left: (L to R) IT & Development Manager Adam Lewis KC7GDY, ARDC Ambassador and HAMNET Manager Jann Traszewski DG8NGN, and Technology Director Schuyler Erle N0GIS at HAM RADIO 2025. Right: (L to R) JARL 100th Anniversary Working Group Member Taka Otsuka 7K2COL / K2COL and 44Net Program Manager John Burwell KI5QKX at JARL Ham Fair 2025.

In 2025, ARDC expanded its presence across a wide range of hamfests and technical gatherings, using these events to connect directly with communities engaged in amateur radio, digital communications, open technology, and nonprofit work. This year, our outreach centered not only on sharing our [grants](#) program and [44Net](#) services, but also on introducing our newly published [vision](#) and [strategy](#) and highlighting our [priority areas for funding](#). These conversations helped raise awareness of the goals guiding ARDC's programs and provided opportunities to discuss how they relate to ongoing work within these communities.

Attending events across amateur radio, open source, networking, and philanthropy gave us opportunities to meet with current and prospective grantees, 44Net users and technical experimenters, building relationships with organizations around the world. From large gatherings like [Hamvention](#) to international events hosted by [DARC](#) and [JARL](#), as well as our first appearance at the [RSGB 2025 Convention](#), these events allowed us to maintain existing connections while adding a new event to our outreach efforts.



Members of the ARDC team attended the following events in 2025:

- [PEAK Grantmaking](#) - March in New Orleans, LA ❖
- [HamSCI](#) - March in Newark, NJ
- [Hamvention](#) - May in Xenia, OH ❖ □
- [NANOG 94](#) - June in Denver, CO
- [UN Open Source Week 2025](#) - June in New York, NY
- [HAM RADIO 2025](#) – June in Friedrichshafen, Germany □
- [Open Sauce Live](#) – July in San Mateo, CA
- [FOSSY 2025](#) – July / August in Portland, OR
- [Small Satellite Conference](#) – August in Salt Lake City, UT
- [HOPE_16](#) – August in Queens, New York, NY
- [JARL Ham Fair](#) – August in Tokyo, Japan □
- [GRCon25](#) – September in Everett, WA
- [Zero Retries Digital Conference \(ZRDC\)](#) – September in Everett, WA ❖
- [RSGB 2025 Convention](#) – October in Milton Keynes, UK ❖
- [Pacificon](#) – October in San Ramon, CA
- [43rd Annual AMSAT Space Symposium & Annual General Meeting](#) – October in Phoenix, AZ ❖
- [Chaos Communication Congress \(CCC\)](#) – December in Hamburg, Germany ❖

❖ Presentation □ Booth or Table

We sponsored these events in 2025:

- [Big Bear HamEscape](#) – April in Big Bear Lake, CA
- [SEA-PAC](#) – June in Seaside, OR
- [Huntsville Hamfest](#) – August in Huntsville, AL
- [JARL Ham Fair](#) – August in Tokyo, Japan
- [GRCon25](#) – September in Everett, WA
- [Zero Retries Digital Conference \(ZRDC\)](#) – September in Everett, WA

You can see a full list of our sponsorships here: <https://www.ardc.net/apply/sponsorships/>.

Podcasts and YouTube Channels

In 2025, we were seen on the below podcasts and YouTube channels:

- [Q5 Worldwide Ham Radio](#)
- [Ham Radio Workbench](#)
- [RATPAC](#)
- [Ham Radio Prep](#)
- [ICQ Podcast](#)



Media

You could read about us in 2025 in these publications:

- [Amateur Radio Newsline](#)
- [This Week in Amateur Radio](#)
- [Amateur Radio Weekly](#), [Amateur Radio Daily](#)
- [Zero Retries](#)
- [Q5 Magazine](#)
- [QRZ.com](#)
- [ARRL](#)
- [Deutschland-Rundspruch](#)
- [QSP](#)

Monthly Newsletters

In 2025, we moved to a bimonthly publication schedule, releasing six [newsletters](#) and steadily growing our subscriber base to 1085 (from 1024) by year's end. If you haven't subscribed yet, sign up here to stay informed with our latest news and updates:

<https://www.ardc.net/about/newsletter/>.

Community Meetings

In 2025, we continued hosting our annual [Community Meeting](#) on Zoom, offering an open forum for anyone interested in ARDC's work to learn more about our programs, ask questions, and engage directly with staff and board members. These meetings provide an important touchpoint with our community, allowing us to share updates and gather feedback. To stay informed about future meetings, we encourage folks to follow us on social media, join [ardc.groups.io](#), or subscribe to our newsletter through the link in the [Monthly Newsletters](#) section above.

Grantee Gatherings

ARDC hosted two Grantee Gatherings in 2025, aimed at helping our grantees connect, share insights, and support one another. Our May gathering focused on outreach, while the October gathering explored opportunities for peer groups and continued collaboration. The strong interest in continued conversations shows how valuable these gatherings have become for our grantee community, and we look forward to hosting more in 2026.

44Net Community Meetings

Staff and community members collaborated throughout the year in regular meetings that included focused working sessions and community calls. Work helped coordinate both technical development and governance.



The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and other working groups met regularly in project-focused meetings to review proposals, coordinate implementation efforts, and support ongoing development of 44Net Connect, policy, and infrastructure.

In October, Regional Coordinators met to share local operating practices, voice coordination challenges, and exchange insight into regional needs and priorities. The discussion clarified what was working well, where coordination was uneven, and how long-standing regional practices might evolve into a more structured and sustainable program. Recordings and materials from Regional Coordinator meetings are published at <https://www.ardc.net/44net/regional-coordinators/>.

In November, the 44Net Connect team hosted a “PoP Party” as an early, community-facing working meeting ahead of a staged rollout designed to gradually bring new users onto the system. The event brought together developers, operators, and users to walk through the new dashboard, test real workflows, and refine documentation and support processes.

New 44Net participants often begin by attending working meetings or assisting with documentation and testing before taking on larger responsibilities. Community members interested in regional coordination, technical development, documentation, testing, or governance work are encouraged to follow the [44Net mailing list](#) to learn about upcoming meetings and more ways to get involved, or to email contact@ardc.net for more information.

Social Media and Groups.io

Throughout 2025, we continued to share regular updates across our social media pages and Groups.io, helping grow our reach and strengthen connections with our community. By year’s end, we had 1035 on Facebook (49% increase from 2024); 997 followers on Twitter / X (20% increase from 2024); and 1,303 on LinkedIn (26% increase from 2024). In 2026, we will continue to post on Facebook and LinkedIn and will be shifting focus toward Mastodon and Bluesky.

Additionally, we added a new platform to the mix with the launch of our [YouTube channel](#), which attracted 89 subscribers since its debut in September.

Our primary mailing list, ardc.groups.io, also continued to expand, reaching 1459 subscribers (32% increase from 2024).



We also continue to maintain several public special interest subgroups within ardc.groups.io:

[44Net](#)

Created: 02/17/22

617 Members

(45% increase from 2024)

[ARDC Wiki](#)

Created: 08/25/23

56 Members

(17% increase from 2024)

[NEW] [44Net Connect](#)

[Discussion](#)

Created: 12/12/25

155 Members

[Community](#)

Created: 04/19/23

1118 Members

(5% increase from 2024)

[ARDC Grantees](#)

Created: 4/19/23

84 Members

(25% increase from 2024)

[44Net VPN](#)

Created: 07/01/18

433 Members

(9% increase from 2024)

[NEW] [Developer Community](#)

Created: 6/6/25

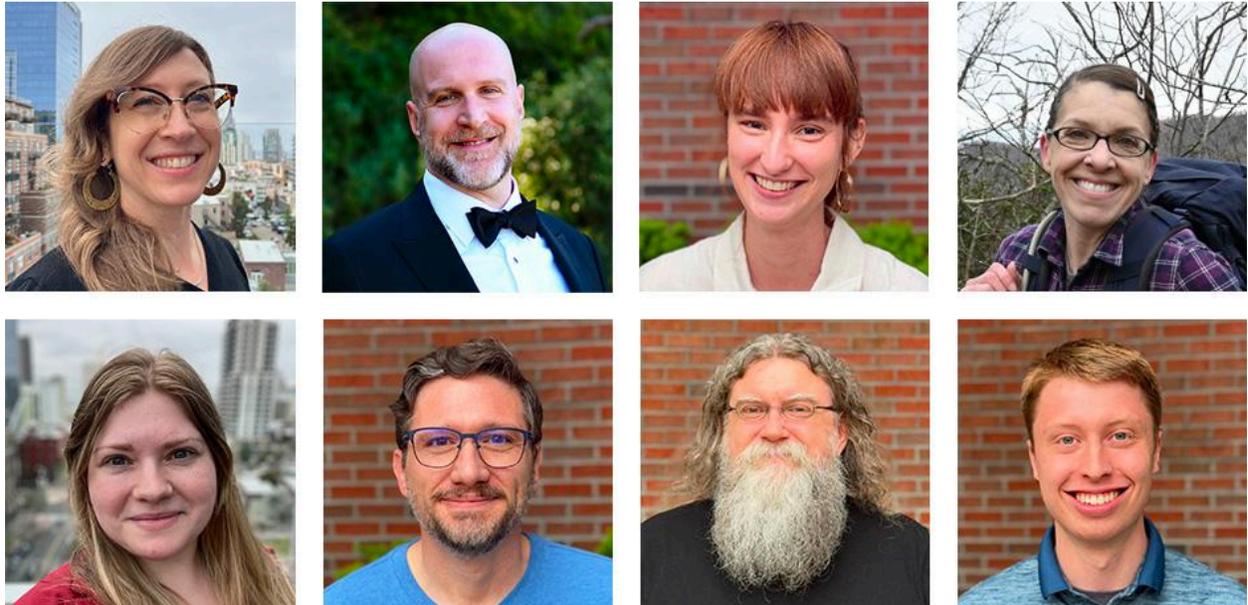
13 Members



2025 Team

In 2025, our team reached nearly 50 people! Thank you to everyone – especially our volunteers – for bringing excellence and hard work to ARDC.

Staff



ARDC's staff as of Dec. 2025. Top row, L to R: Rosy Schechter KJ7RYV, Executive Director; Schuyler Erle N0GIS, Director of Technology; Chelsea Párraga KF0FVJ, Director of Grantmaking; Rebecca Key KO4KVG, Communications Manager. Bottom row, L to R: Merideth Stroh KK7BKI, Operations Manager; Adam Lewis KC7GDY, IT & Development Operations Manager; John Burwell KI5QKX, 44Net Program Manager; Adam Zimmel W0ZML, Grants & Administrative Associate.

Contractors



Tim Požar KC6GNJ helps ARDC with IT through his company, [Two P](#).



Karl Fogel, Frank Duncan, and Jim McGowan of [Open Tech Strategies](#) (OTS) work on the development of [Hypha](#), our open-source software for managing our grants.



Chris Smith G1FEF provided IT services through his consulting company [The Communication Gateway](#).



Thank you, Chris!

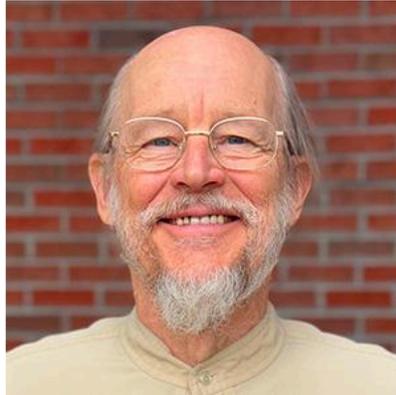


We want to recognize Chris Smith G1FEF, whose long-standing contributions have played a significant role with 44Net. Chris has been involved with ARDC for more than a decade, working closely with our founder, Brian Kantor WB6CYT SK, during the time of his leadership. For many years, Chris has provided essential IT services through his company, [The Communication Gateway](#), helping establish and maintain systems that continue to support the community. Chris's guidance, technical insight, and hands-on support have thus been invaluable. We are deeply grateful for everything he's done to build the 44Net and greater ARDC community.



Board of Directors

2025 Officers



Officers of ARDC's Board of Directors as of Dec. 2025. L to R: Bdale Garbee KB0G, President; John Gilmore W0GNU, Secretary; Ria Jairam N2RJ, Treasurer.

2025 Board Members

These are our board members as of Dec. 2025:

- President: Bdale Garbee — *KB0G*
- Secretary: John Gilmore — *W0GNU*
- Treasurer: Ria Jairam — *N2RJ*
- Director: Phil Karn — *KA9Q*
- Director: Keith Packard — *K7WQ*
- Director: Bob Witte — *K0NR*
- Director: Ashhar Farhan — *VU2ESE*
- Director: Harald Welte

Conduct Review Committee (CRC)

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

- Keith Packard — *K7WQ*
- Merideth Stroh — *KK7BKI*
- Donni Katzovicz – *W2BRU*
- Don Prosnitz – *N6PRZ*



Grants Advisory Committee (GAC)

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

- **Staff Lead:** Chelsea Párraga – *KF0FVJ*
- **Chair:** Bill Thomas – *WT0DX*
- **Deputy Chair:** Hillary Ramsey – *AB1CD*
- Brian Milesosky – *N5ZGT*
- Dennis Derickson – *AC0P*
- Jim Idelson – *K1IR*
- Kristin Paget – *NC0DD*
- David Burgess – *KE2DSM*
- Kevin McQuiggin – *VE7ZD/KN7Q*
- Kevin Reeve – *N7RXE*
- Jim White – *WD0E*
- Steve Bunting – *M0BPQ*
- Gene Schroder – *AE8GS*
- Dave Ginsberg – *N3BKV*

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 new Portal and the PoP VPN project.

- **Staff Lead:** John Burwell – *KI5QKX*
- Zach Seguin – *VA3ZTS*
- Dave Gingrich – *K9DC*
- Rich Gopstein – *KD2CQ*
- Ian Redden – *VA3IAN*
- Dan Theisen – *WI7FI*
- Dennis Mojado – *AD6DM*
- Kevin Titmarsh – *2E0LSR*
- Dan Srebnick – *K2IE*
- Ronnie Montgomery – *W0RDM*
- Mason Turner – *AF4MT*
- Diego Casati – *VE6DPC*
- Donni Katzovicz – *W2BRU*



Grants Evaluation Team (GET)

Data on the success of our grantmaking is a result of the Grants Evaluation Team (GET), who reviews and advises the ARDC Board of Directors and Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) on the results of funded grants.

- **Staff Lead:** Chelsea Párraga – *KF0FVJ*
- Willi Kraml – *OE1WKL*
- Scott Czeck – *KC1GHT*
- Darryl Smith – *VK2TDS*
- Lad Nagurney – *WA3EEC*
- Don Prosnitz – *N6PRZ*
- Dan Romanchik – *KB6NU*
- Wayne Heinen – *N0POH*
- Falcon Momot – *AF7MH*

You can see our whole team listing <https://www.ardc.net/about/who-we-are/>.

2025 Donors

We encourage anyone interested in giving back to donate directly to their national amateur radio organizations, local clubs, schools, open source projects, and scholarship organizations.

However, some individuals have let us know that they want to be a part of supporting the 44Net or our grantmaking program. Thus, in 2025, ARDC was honored to receive our first donations.

Anonymous
David Ginsberg

When someone makes a donation to ARDC, we take it as a vote of confidence that we are doing work that you see as unique and meaningful. We are truly grateful to have your confidence and are proud to have you as a part of the team supporting these programs.



Looking ahead: 2026

2026 is already bringing some exciting projects to life, like our Volunteer Alumni Group – a way for former volunteers to remain connected to one another and ARDC even after their tenure has ended. Here's what else we have in store:

- Our inaugural and volunteer-based [Grants Communications Team \(GCT\)](#) is already getting to work helping us to publish individual project results. Their work will both help us to write up and publish our backlog of many hundreds of reports, and get incoming reports out to the public more rapidly. You can see updated reports by checking out the [awarded grants](#) section of our website.
- One of our strategic objectives is to promote learning, which is why we'll be launching our Educational Resource Center (ERC). In addition to being an index for educational materials created by our grantees, it will also be a place to find resources about 44Net, amateur radio, and more. Keep your eye on the ARDC blog and/or sign up for our newsletter to learn when it's released.
- The 44Net team will focus on making participation easier and projects more visible, including publishing trackable indicators, advancing community governance, and strengthening volunteer-led operations. If you're interested in helping build community networks, join the [44Net group online](#) or email contact@ardc.net.
- While we love going to ham radio conventions – and yes, you'll definitely see us in Dayton! – in 2026, we plan to attend conferences where we can explore opportunities in direct alignment with our [priority areas of funding](#) and commitment to increasing our international grantmaking. If you have ideas, please drop us a line: contact@ardc.net.

While we love working on new projects, some systems just work, and we're happy for them to continue:

- Our four-times/year application review cycle continues, with proposals due on Feb. 1, April 1, July 1, and Sept. 1 (including scholarships). Applications received after Sept. 1, 2026, will be reviewed on Feb. 1, 2027. See ardc.net/apply for more information.

To get involved, ask a question, or share your thoughts about something you'd like to see in 2026, reach out any time: contact@ardc.net.



Final Remarks from our President



As Rosy points out in her letter, over the last year, ARDC staff integrated the vision statement and strategic granting objectives our board of directors delivered late in 2024 into all aspects of our operations. They are an amazing team, who I find it easy to work with and support. That all of our operations ran so smoothly in 2025 made this my lowest stress year since becoming ARDC's President!

Among our various accomplishments this year, I am particularly pleased by the introduction of the 44Net Connect service. The idea for this service came from community members, to reduce barriers to entry for more use of network 44. The investment we made bringing the service to production is one part of our long-term commitment to caring for and improving access to network 44. I was pleasantly surprised to learn recently how many users are already signed up. While there's still work to do on details like updating our wiki content to fully comprehend the availability of this service, I look forward to seeing this service enable further Learning, Experimenting, and Doing over time.

Finally, I continue to be awed and made grateful every time I think about the prodigious contributions of time and wisdom from our amazing community of volunteers. Without all of you, none of what ARDC accomplishes would be possible, and I look forward to all we may accomplish together in the coming year and beyond.

73,

Bdale Garbee – KB0G
President
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