ARDC Community Meeting

15 March 2025

Agenda

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- New Staff, Board, and Advisory Committee Members
- 2024 Recap
- Vision & Strategy
- Q&A

Illini Solar Car

Housekeeping

- This session is being ⦿ recorded
- Questions in the chat window please!
- Mute yourself if not presenting
- All materials will be posted after the call

When somebody adds another plate to the sink
while I'm washing the dishes

Staff, Board, and Advisory Committee Updates

New Board Member

Ashhar Farhan
VU2ESE

New Staff Members

**Schuyler Erle N0GIS
Technology Director**

**Adam Lewis KC7GDY
IT & Dev. Mgr.**

New Staff Members

**John Burwell KI5QKX
44Net Program Mgr.**

**Adam Zimmel W0ZML
Grants & Admin.
Assoc.**

The Crew! (mostly)

The Crew!

2025 New Committee Members

GAC

- Kevin Reeve – *N7RXE*
- Jim White – *WD0E*
- Steve Bunting – *M0BPQ*
- Gene Schroeder – *AE8GS*
- Dave Ginsberg – *N3BKV*

TAC

- Kevin Titmarsh – *2E0LSR*
- Dan Srebnick – *K2IE*
- Ronnie Montgomery – *W0RDM*
- Mason Turner – *AF4MT*
- Diego Casati – *VE6DPC*
- Donni Katzovicz – *W2BRU*

2025 New Committee Members (cont'd)

GET

- Don Prosnitz – *N6PRZ*
- Dan Romanchik – *KB6NU*
- Wayne Heinen – *N0POH*
- Falcon Momot – *AF7MH*

CRC

- Don Prosnitz – *N6PRZ*

2024 Departures

GAC

- Leandro Soares Indrusiak – *G5LSI*
- Don Prosnitz – *N6PRZ*
- Katie Allen – *WY7YL*
- Judi Clark – *KK6ZCU*
- Randy Wilkinson – *W4LKS*
- Sam Duwe – *WN5C*

TAC

- Chip Eckardt – *W9OQI*
- Álvaro Prieto – *KC2VVE*
- Jeff Hochberg – *W4JEW*
- Saquib Ahmed – *VU3HZW*

2024 Departures (cont'd)

GET

- Dewayne Hendricks – *WA8DZP SK*
- Bob Witte – *K0NR*
- Ben Greve – *KO4KVH*
- Jai Chanda – *VU2YYE*

CRC

- Pat Nelson – *KE0QXD SK*

For a full list of Staff and Volunteers, visit:
https://www.ardc.net/about/who-we-are/

2024 Annual Report

2024 Annual Report

- Grants (incl. GET findings)
- Tech & 44Net
- Operations
- Staff & Board arrivals, departures
- Staff & Volunteers lost in 2024
- Communications/Outreach

Technology and 44Net

44Net Technology Updates

- 44Net Portal refreshed was launched in April 2024:
  https://portal.ampr.org/
  - Many thanks to Chris Smith G1FEF, Tim Požar KC6GNJ and the Tech Team
- Staff and volunteers have worked to:
  - Refresh the gateway at UCSD
  - Prepare the VPN PoP project for launch
  - Develop new documentation and resources
- TAC is working on policies/procedures for improving workflow of 44Net administration and coordination activities
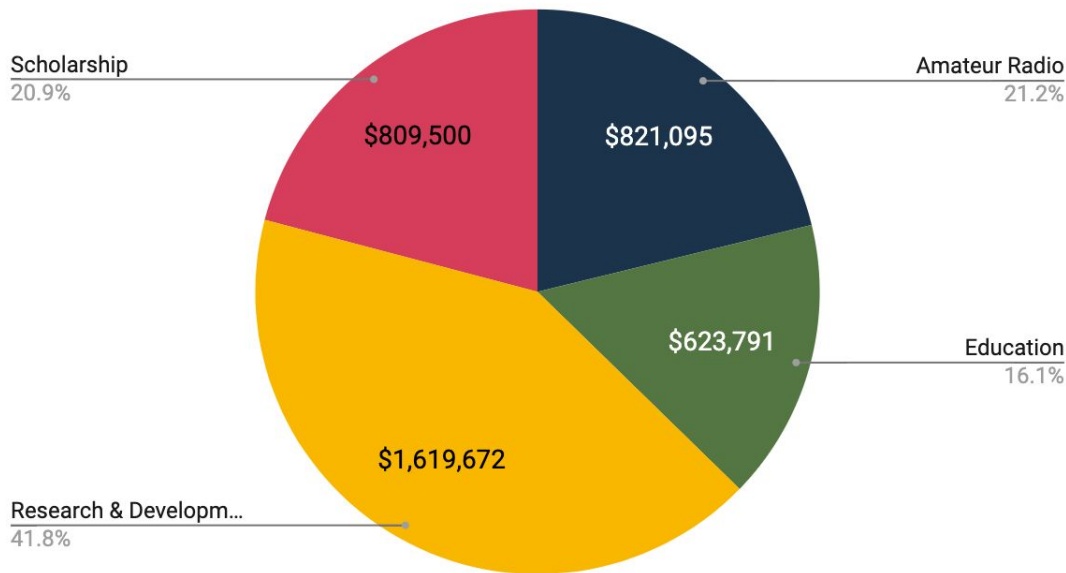 - Seeking community input

Q & A – 44Net

Grants

2024 Grants Update

2024 Grants by Category - Dollars

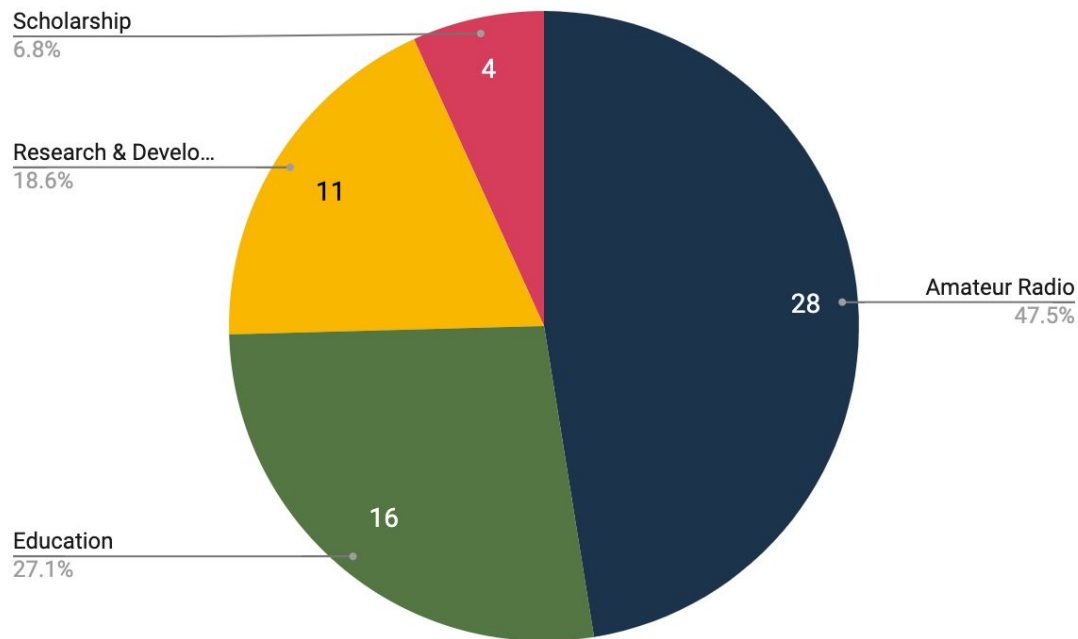| Category	Percent	Dollars
Scholarship	20.9%	$809,500
Amateur Radio	21.2%	$821,095
Education	16.1%	$623,791
Research & Developm...	41.8%	$1,619,672

Number of grants made in 2024:

59 Grants

Dollars approved in 2024:

$3.8 Million*

Number of people impacted:

~15,103 People

*Final totals will be provided in 2024 audited financials

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Grants by Category - Number of Awards

- Continued decreases to scholarship funding.

- Amateur radio projects continued to have more overlap with education projects.
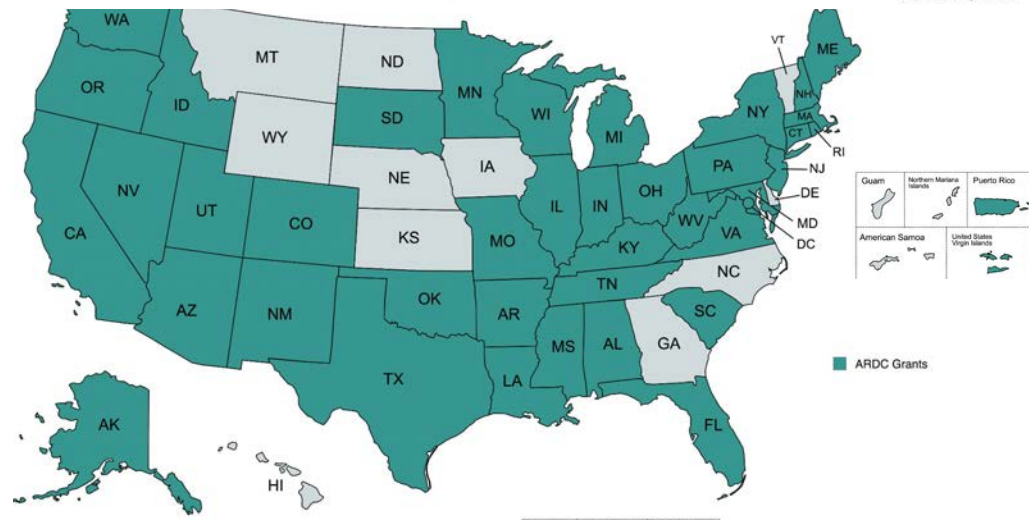
International Reach

2020: 9% international projects (2)

2021: 10% international projects (6)

2022: 13% international projects (13)

2023: 13% international projects (9)

2024: 27% international projects (16)

Grants Update - Amateur Radio

USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club

- Restoring and modernizing radio equipment and facilities on the USS Hornet.

- Repairing original antennas and upgrading the NB6GC station with modern radios.

- The site is used for public demonstrations and education.

Hornet Amateur Radio Club

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Grants Evaluation Team Findings

San Francisco Wireless Emergency Mesh

- **71% of projects were successful,** 22% were unclear, and 6% were less successful.
- Identified ways to better support grantees: e.g., final report examples.
- Strong outreach leads to exceptional results.
- Full report: https://www.ardc.net/wp-content/uploads/GET-Findings-Public-Version.pdf

Looking to apply in 2025?
Check out the application deadlines

- April 1
- July 1
- September 1
  - general & scholarship programs

Information: ardc.net/apply/

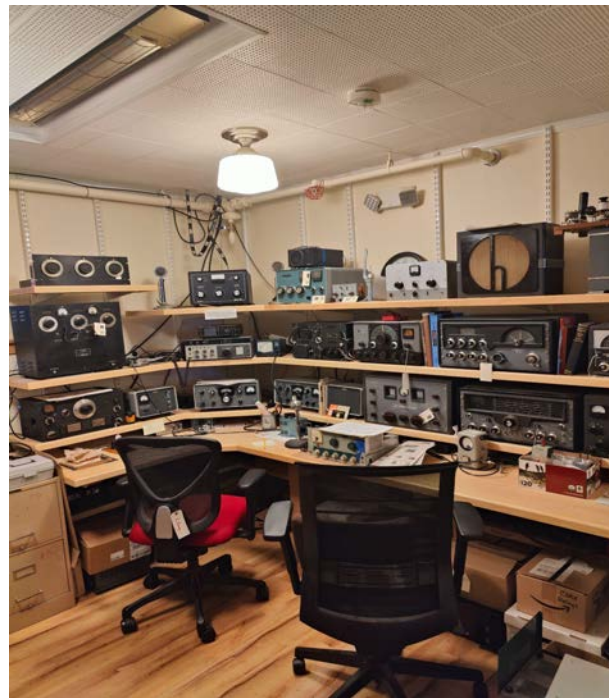**Apply:** grants.ardc.net

Q & A – Grants

ARDC Vision & Strategy

ARDC Context

ARDC's origins are at the crossroads of traditional amateur radio (AR) and the emergence of the Internet.

- One foot in AR, and the other foot in the larger context of digital communications (DC)
- AR and DC greatly overlap and are synergistic

California Historical Radio Society

ARDC Mission

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.

Why Work on a Vision & Strategy?

To answer philosophical and practical questions from our community and each other:

- What do we mean by *digital communications*?

- Why is open source technology and access so important to us, and how does it relate to amateur radio?

- Big picture: what is ARDC trying to do, and for what purpose?

ARDC Vision Statement

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

ARDC Vision Statement

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

We aim to enable all people, everywhere, to collaborate in a way that crosses borders and fosters international goodwill.

ARDC Vision Statement

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

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.

ARDC
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ARDC Vision Statement

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

- Freedom to tinker and build with little or no gatekeeping
- Freedom to communicate and share information, in service of assisting others
- We believe 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.

ARDC Vision Statement

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

- By eliminating gatekeeper technology, we enable makers, hackers, and developers to learn, experiment, and deploy using freely available knowledge, tools, and platforms.
- We focus on areas of AR and DC that are less likely to be funded than commercial applications.

AMATEUR RADIO DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Three ARDC High-Level Strategies

Promote Learning

Goal: more people learning about AR and DC.

Promote Experimenting

Goal: more people experimenting, innovating, and developing new AR and DC technology.

Promote Doing

Goal: more people using additional and new bands, modes, & technologies (AR & DC).

AR|DC
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Objective 1: Promote Learning
Goal: more people learning about AR and DC

- Any age
- Any competency level
- Inside & outside the traditional classroom

#LifelongLearning!

Youngsters on the Air (YOTA)

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Objective 2: Promote Experimenting
Goal: more people exploring, innovating, and advancing tech

- Can include a newbie exploring a specific ham band or non-amateur wireless tech for new innovations
- Working with technology widgets and electronic kit building
- Encompasses a wide range of technical depth, from tinkering to deep dives

Antarikchya Pratisthan Nepal (APN)

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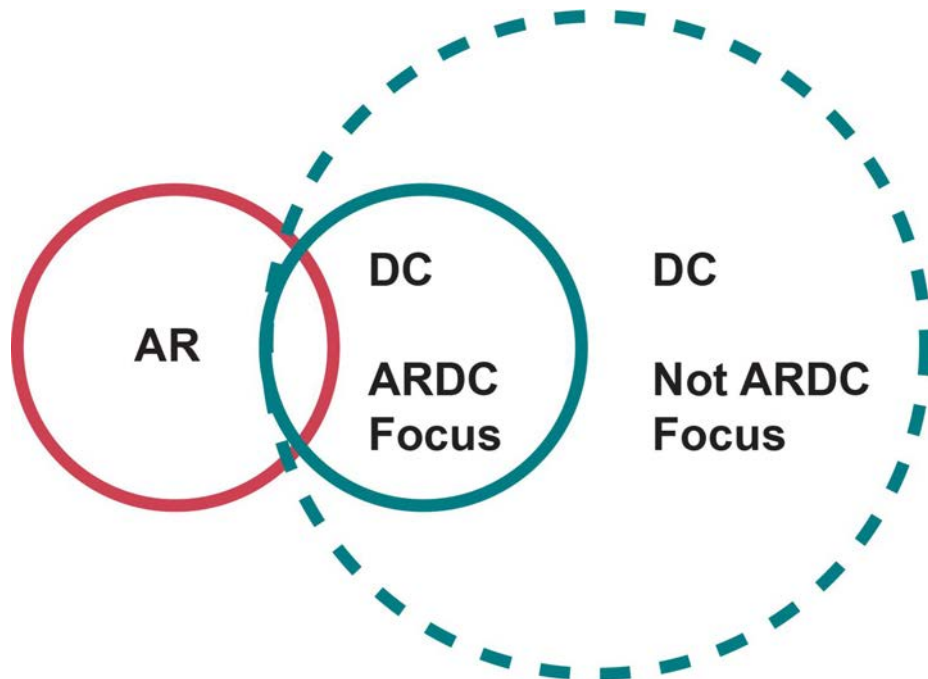
Objective 3: Promote Doing

Goal: more people using new tech productively within AR and DC

- Technology must be used in the real world for impact
- **AR:** new communication tech used by the masses is key to development.
  - Provides key feedback, reveals new uses, highlights improvements
- **AR:** spectrum – use it or lose it!
- **DC:** Similar to AR spectrum except in unlicensed or lightly licensed, non-commercial spectrum, and wireline
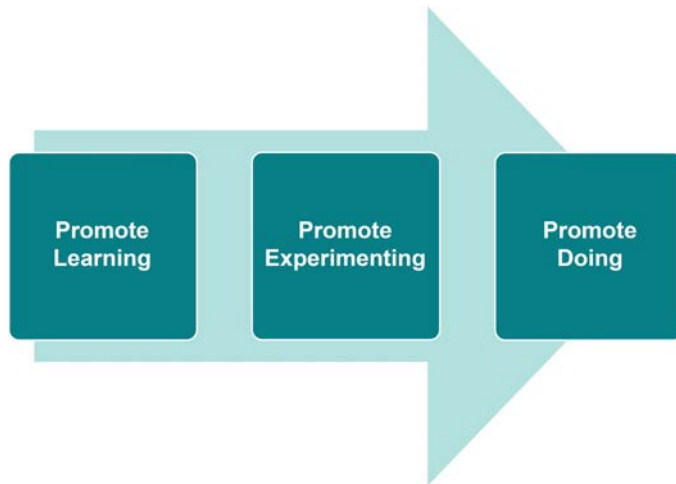

WX5FWD SKYWARN

ARDC Focus Area in DC

- Enables maker, hacker and/or developer to learn, experiment, or do (deploy)
- No gatekeeper technologies
- Has a broad impact (open, shareable, leverageable) vs. serving a single group
- Not likely to be funded by other sources
- Not just wireless!

The Road Ahead

- Define topic areas of the greatest interest
- Refine, clarify, and extend the strategy over time

Q & A – Vision & Strategy

Come See Us at…

- **HamSCI**

  March 13 - 15, 2025, Newark, NJ - say hi to Ria N2RJ and Phil KA9Q if you're there!

- **PEAK Grantmaking**

  March 24 - 26, 2025, New Orleans, LA

- **Hamvention**

  May 16 - 18, 2025, Xenia, OH

Thank you!

Reach out any time: *contact@ardc.net*