

# Volunteer Monitor Program Report

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service. This is the November 2025 activity report of the VM Program.

Two Technician operators in Texas, and one each in California, Arkansas, and Florida, were issued advisories concerning 20-meter FT8 operation, a band on which Technicians have no privileges.

Operators in North Carolina and Tennessee were issued advisories regarding improperly wide signals on 3.927 MHz. Section 97.307(a) of the Commission's rules states, "No amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice."

Operators in Washington, Oregon, and California were issued advisories regarding SSB operation on 7.299 MHz, too close to the band edge.

An operator in Florida was issued an advisory for operation with an expired license.

An operator in Maine was issued an advisory concerning his disregard for a directive from a local repeater owner to stop using the repeater. The FCC not only expects, but requires, repeater owners to maintain control of their repeaters, and will enforce such "stay off" letters.

The FCC requested assistance in a public safety case near McAllen, Texas, and an unlicensed operation case in California. Information was provided to the FCC in both, but no action was taken due to the FCC closure.

The totals for October 2025 monitoring were 1,511 hours on HF frequencies, and 1,579 hours on VHF frequencies and above, for a total of 3,090 hours.

— Thanks to Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH

## Congratulations

November 2025  
QST Cover Plaque Award Winner

*Carl Luetzelschwab*  
**K9LA**

In his article, "Current and Upcoming HF Propagation in Solar Cycle 25," Carl fills readers in on the current propagation trends for Solar Cycle 25, how long those trends are projected to continue, and what operations could look like once the solar maximum comes to an end.

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## Current and Upcoming HF Propagation in Solar Cycle 25



Analyzing rise times, sunspots, and more to help us understand what operations might look like after solar maximum.

### Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

Solar Cycle 25 has been at its maximum over the last several years, and many hams are enjoying propagation on the higher HF bands (15, 12, and 10 meters). These bands have not only been great for making domestic contacts, but they've been good for DX contacts, too. But the solar maximum of Cycle 25 won't last forever.

### Data Evaluation

When you average the rise times (the time it takes a cycle to rise from its minimum to its maximum) of the previous 24 solar cycles, you find that they take about 4 years to reach their maximum. The rise times vary: larger cycles tend to be somewhat shorter, and smaller

cycles tend to be somewhat longer. Because the length of a solar cycle averages around 11 years, that means the average decline of a cycle is around 7 years.

In terms of the latest smoothed sunspot number (the official measurement of a solar cycle) for January 2025, Cycle 25 is just about 5 years (61 months, to be exact) past its solar minimum (which was in December 2019) — about 1 year more than the average rise time. This is shown in Figure 1, which also includes a comparison of Cycle 25 to a small cycle (Cycle 24), an average cycle (Cycle 23), a moderately big cycle (Cycle 21), and the largest cycle in recorded history (Cycle 19).

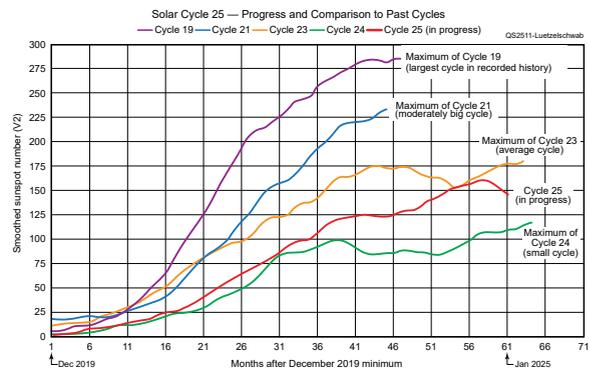


Figure 1 — This is the latest Cycle 25 monthly mean data for July 2025, resulting in the latest smoothed data for January 2025 (smoothed data is 6 months behind the monthly mean data).