
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 January 2026 activity report of the VM Program.

An operator in Wisconsin was issued an Advisory Notice concerning a beacon on a 60-meter frequency not authorized to US operators.

A Technician operator in California was issued an Advisory Notice for 20-meter FT8 operation, a band on which Technicians have no privileges.

An operator in Washington was issued an Advisory Notice for repeatedly transmitting “free DV digital software” on 40 meters and refusing to vacate the frequency when requested.

An operator in New York was issued an Advisory Notice for interference with the Jamaica Emergency Net on 20 meters.

An operator in New York was issued an Advisory Notice for deliberate interference with amateur operators on 20 meters and for using CB equipment on amateur frequencies.

An operator in Chesterfield, Virginia, received a commendation for providing assistance to new licensees (one 11 years old), and donating radio equipment and installation and operation assistance to get the new licensees on 10 meters.

There was one FCC meeting, and the FCC accepted HF cases in North Carolina, Kentucky, Georgia, and Missouri for enforcement sanctions.

A new automated FT8 monitoring system was implemented in January and is undergoing testing. It will randomly monitor FT8 and FT4 frequencies to ensure that the operators hold the proper license class for the band they are using.

The totals for December 2025 monitoring were 1,370 hours on HF frequencies, 1,097 hours on VHF frequencies and above, and 42 other monitoring hours, for a total of 2,509 hours.

In 2025, Volunteer Monitors reported 17,642 hours of monitoring on HF frequencies, and 23,436 hours on VHF frequencies and above, for a total of 41,078 hours for the year.

— *Thanks to Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH*