

# Long Lines site: Holden, Missouri

- **Common Language Identifier:** HLDNMO
- **Coordinates:** 38°42'25.00" N, 93°55'20.30" W (38.70694 N, 93.92231 W)
- **County:** Johnson
- **AT&T call sign:** KAR86 (inactive)
- **Antenna Structure Registration (ASR):** None
- **Height (overall):** ~150 feet (with extension)
- **Current owner:** [Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club, Inc.](#) (WØAU)
- **Currently in use?** Amateur radio repeater
- **Horn antennas?** No
- **Original hops:** 1960 — [Aullville](#) (NE), [Dayton](#) (SW). 1966 — [Oak Grove](#) (NNW), [Windsor](#) (SE)

In the late 1950s, a microwave relay route was established near Holden in Johnson County, Missouri, to support a telephone route between La Cygne, Kansas, and Dover, Missouri. It originally had two hops – northeast to Aullville and southwest to Dayton.

In 1963, a new “semi-hardened” concrete base station and 100-foot tower were erected east of where the original site once stood. This new site not only handled the telephone traffic for the La Cygne-Dover route (which was eventually extended from Dover northward to Helena, Missouri), but also supported two additional hops for the Kansas City-Halifax-Oakdale, Illinois, telephone/television route. The new hops for the telephone/television route was north-northwest to Oak Grove and southeast to Windsor.

As with all other sites along the Kansas City-Oakdale route, this new “semi-hardened” base station was designed to withstand 2 PSI of overpressure caused by a nuclear detonation.

The site remained in operation until the 1990s, when AT&T turned down most of its terrestrial Long Lines microwave network in favor of newer technologies like fiber optics. Holden was included in a 1999 sale of AT&T’s former Long Lines sites to American Tower Corporation. According to Rick Ebbesen, treasurer of the Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club (WAARC) – the site’s present owner – the site would eventually be owned by Steven Semon, owner of “Sedalia Smiles” and Central Communications Service Company in Sedalia, Missouri.

Ebbesen said WAARC acquired the site in the mid-2000s. The building was completely empty, as the original equipment had long been removed – and thieves stole anything else remaining of value. Today, the site houses WAARC’s repeater equipment. It has partitioned rooms inside that house radios and, eventually (as it is under construction as of writing this), a meeting space for club meetings and training sessions. The building is also used for storage, with many old radios and accessories inside that would keep a ham/radio enthusiast intrigued for days.

Before WAARC took ownership of the site, a 50-foot extension was added to the 100-foot tower. This extension now contains dipole arrays for amateur radio use. Lower on the tower are more

## HORNS ACROSS MISSOURI: Holden

amateur radio/HF antennas, a parabolic dish for a mesh network used by WAARC and Johnson County Emergency Management, and additional parabolic antennas used by two wireless internet service providers.

Strong straight-line winds from a June 26, 2018, storm blasted a neighboring building to pieces – blowing them right into the western side of the site. While the building did not sustain any damage, it did bend parts on the tower's southwestern corner.

### Online site page:

<https://personal.garrettfuller.org/blog/att-long-lines/missouri-long-lines-sites/long-lines-site-holden-mo/>

### Photo: November 23, 2024



*Site base station with 100-foot (minus 50-foot extension) tower, seen from the northwest on the site driveway. The site is owned by the Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club, WØAU.*