How to Turn Off 5 GHz WiFi on Your Router

Turning off the 5 GHz WiFi capabilities on your router is necessary for WiFi router operations in the West Virginia Radio Astronomy Zone (WVRAZ). The process varies slightly depending on your router's brand and model, but the general steps are similar.

Before You Begin

- **Locate your router's login credentials:** This is usually a sticker on the bottom or back of your router with a username and default password (often “admin” and/or “password” unless you have changed it). If you've changed them and forgotten, you might need to perform a factory reset on your router (which will reset all settings, including your WiFi password, to default).
- **Connect to your router:** You can do this via an Ethernet cable directly to your computer or wirelessly using your existing WiFi network. *Using a wired connection is recommended to avoid losing connection if you accidentally disable the WiFi you're currently using.*
- **Open a web browser:** You'll use this to access your router's administration page.

General Steps to Turn Off 5 GHz WiFi

1. **Find Your Router's IP Address (Gateway IP):**
    - **Windows:** Open Command Prompt (search for "cmd") and type ipconfig. Look for "Default Gateway" under your active network adapter (Ethernet or Wi-Fi).
    - **macOS:** Go to System Settings (or System Preferences) > Network. Select your active connection (Wi-Fi or Ethernet), click "Details" (or "Advanced"), and then "TCP/IP." Your router's IP will be listed as "Router."
    - **Linux:** Open a terminal and type ip r | grep default or route -n. Look for the IP address next to "default."
    - **Common IP Addresses:** Some common router IP addresses are 192.168.1.1, 192.168.0.1, 192.168.1.254, or 10.0.0.1.
2. **Access Your Router's Administration Page:**
    - Open your web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari, etc.).
    - In the address bar, type your router's IP address and press Enter.

3. **Log In:**
    - You'll be prompted for a username and password. Enter the credentials you found on your router's sticker or your custom ones.
4. **Navigate to Wireless Settings:**
    - Once logged in, the interface will vary, but you're looking for a section related to "Wireless," "WiFi," "Wireless Settings," "Wireless Setup," or "Network Settings."
    - You might see sub-menus for "2.4 GHz" and "5 GHz" or "Dual Band" settings.
5. **Disable the 5 GHz Band:**
    - Look for an option to enable or disable the 5 GHz network. It might be labeled as "Enable Wireless (5 GHz)," "5 GHz Radio," "5 GHz Network," or similar.
    - Uncheck the box, toggle the switch to "Off," or select "Disable" for the 5 GHz band.
    - Some routers might have a single "Dual Band" setting where you can uncheck the 5 GHz option.
6. **Save Your Changes:**
    - **Crucial Step!** After making changes, look for a "Save," "Apply," "OK," or "Save Changes" button. If you don't save, your changes won't take effect.
    - Your router may reboot after saving, which is normal.

General Troubleshooting:

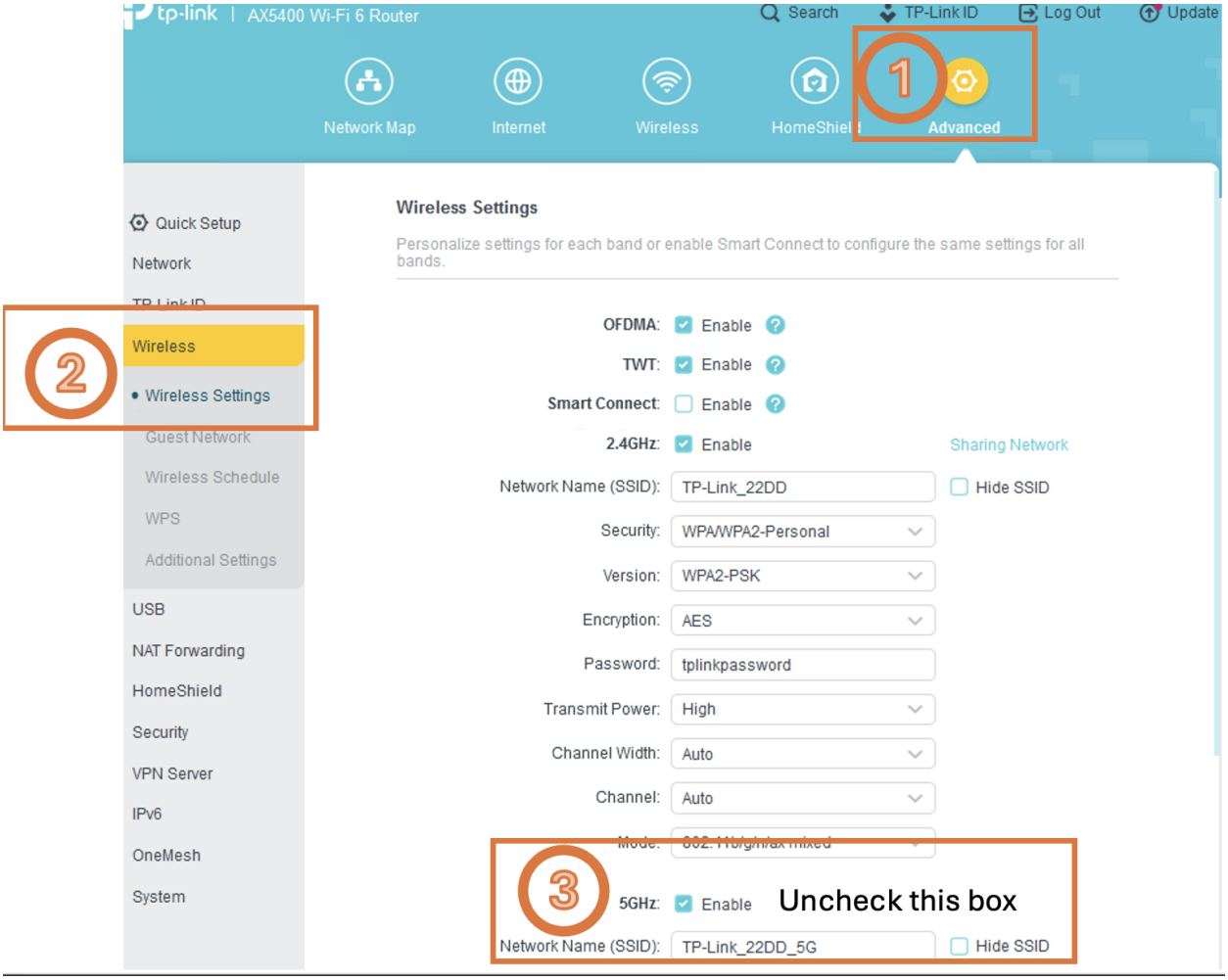
- **Can't access the login page:** Double-check the IP address. Try clearing your browser's cache and cookies.
- **Forgotten password:** You'll likely need to perform a factory reset on your router. There's usually a small pinhole button on the back that you hold down for 10-30 seconds (refer to your router's manual for exact instructions).
- **Changes didn't take effect:** Make sure you clicked the "Save" or "Apply" button. The router might also need to reboot.

Examples for Common Router Brands

While the exact steps may vary slightly even for different models within a given brand, the detailed instructions below are provided for some of the most popular wireless routers.

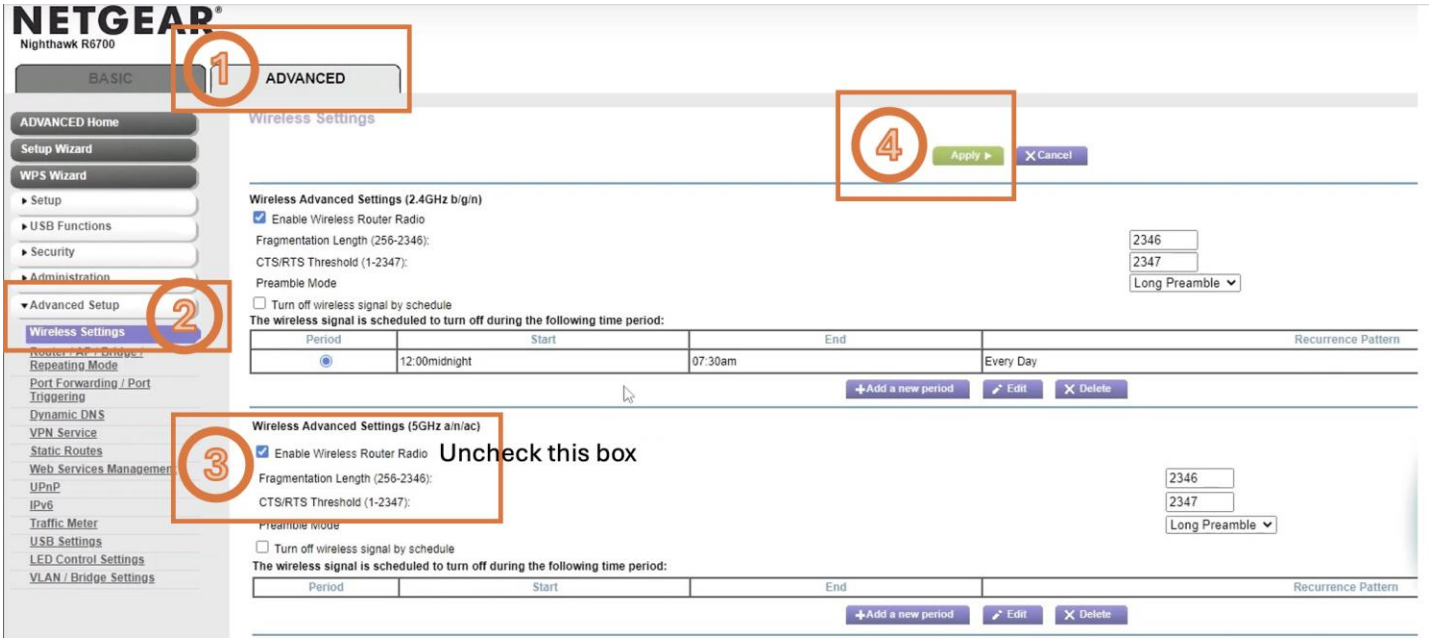
TP-Link Routers (e.g., Archer Series):

1. Log in to the web management page.
    a. Go to **Advanced** > **Wireless** > **Wireless Settings**.
2. You'll likely see separate sections for **2.4GHz** and **5GHz**.
3. Uncheck the **Enable** box for the **5GHz** band.
    a. Click **Save**.



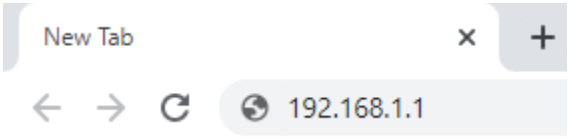
NETGEAR Routers (e.g., Nighthawk Series):

1. Log in to the router's web interface (192.168.1.1).
    a. Go to **Advanced** > **Advanced Setup** > **Wireless Setup**.
2. Scroll down to the **Wireless Advanced Settings (5 Ghz a/n/ac)** section.
3. Uncheck the **Enable Wireless Router Radio** box for the 5 GHz band.
4. Click **Apply**.

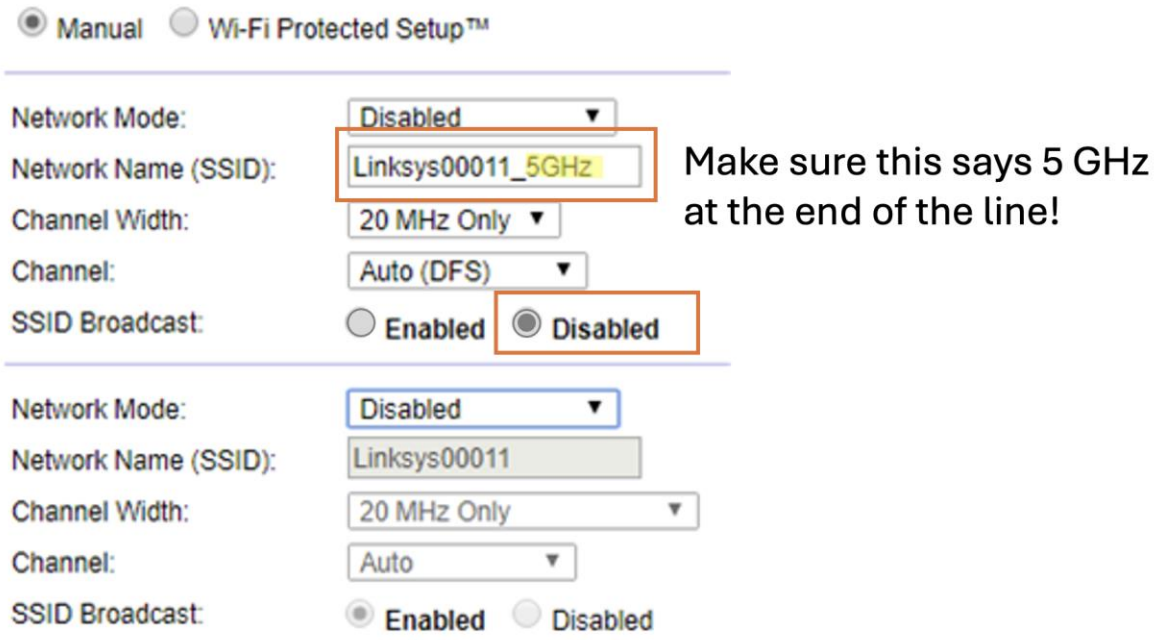


Linksys Routers:

1. Log in to the router's web interface (often 192.168.1.1).



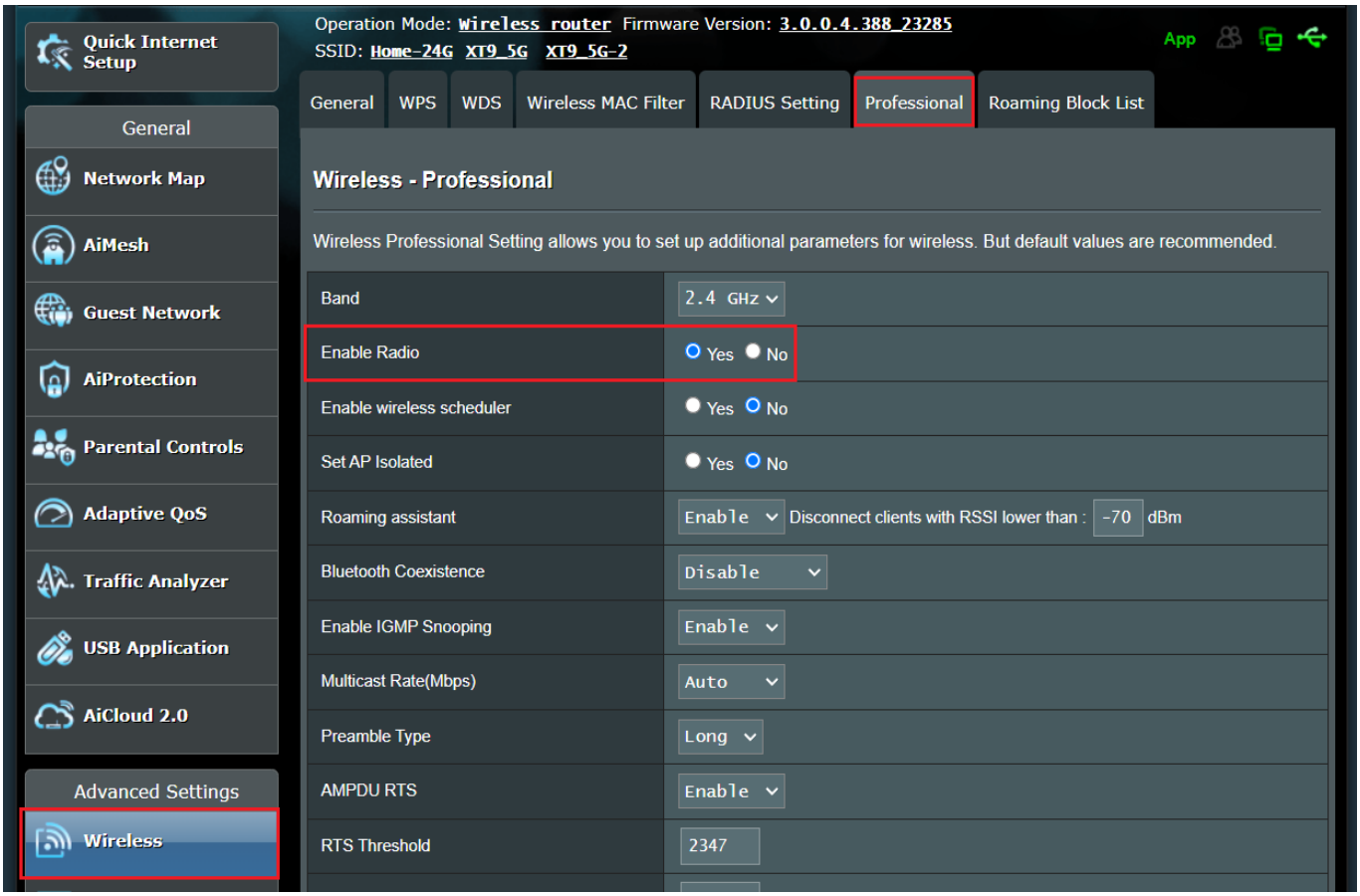
2. Go to **Wireless** > **Basic Wireless Settings**.
3. Click **Manual.**
4. Set the Network Mode to **Disabled** for the 5 GHz Wi-Fi band.



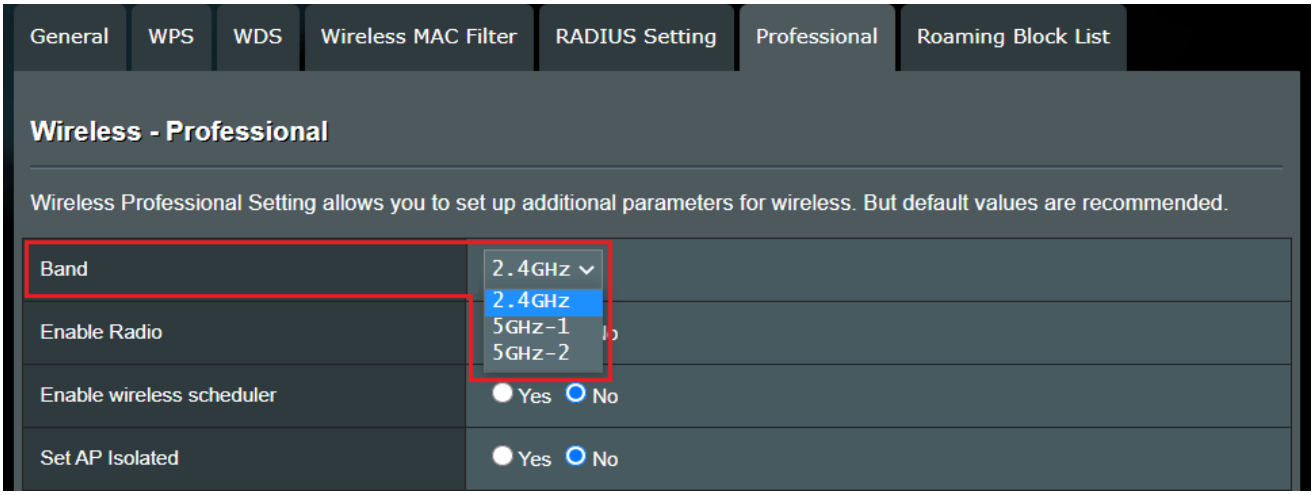
5. Click **Apply** or **Save**.

ASUS Routers:

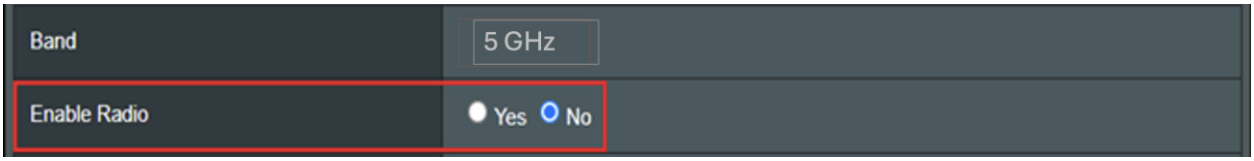
1. Log in to the router's web interface (often www.asusrouter.com or 192.168.1.1).
2. Go to **Wireless** in the left-hand menu. Then, go to the **Professional** tab in the upper middle of the screen.



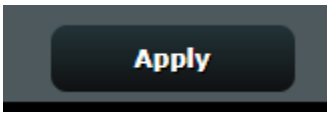
3. Under the **Professional** tab, select **5GHz** from the **Band** dropdown menu. *Note: This screenshot below shows what this looks like for 2.4 GHz WiFi - do not disable 2.4 GHz WiFi unless you plan on using only ethernet!*



4. Toggle the **Enable Radio** option to **No**.

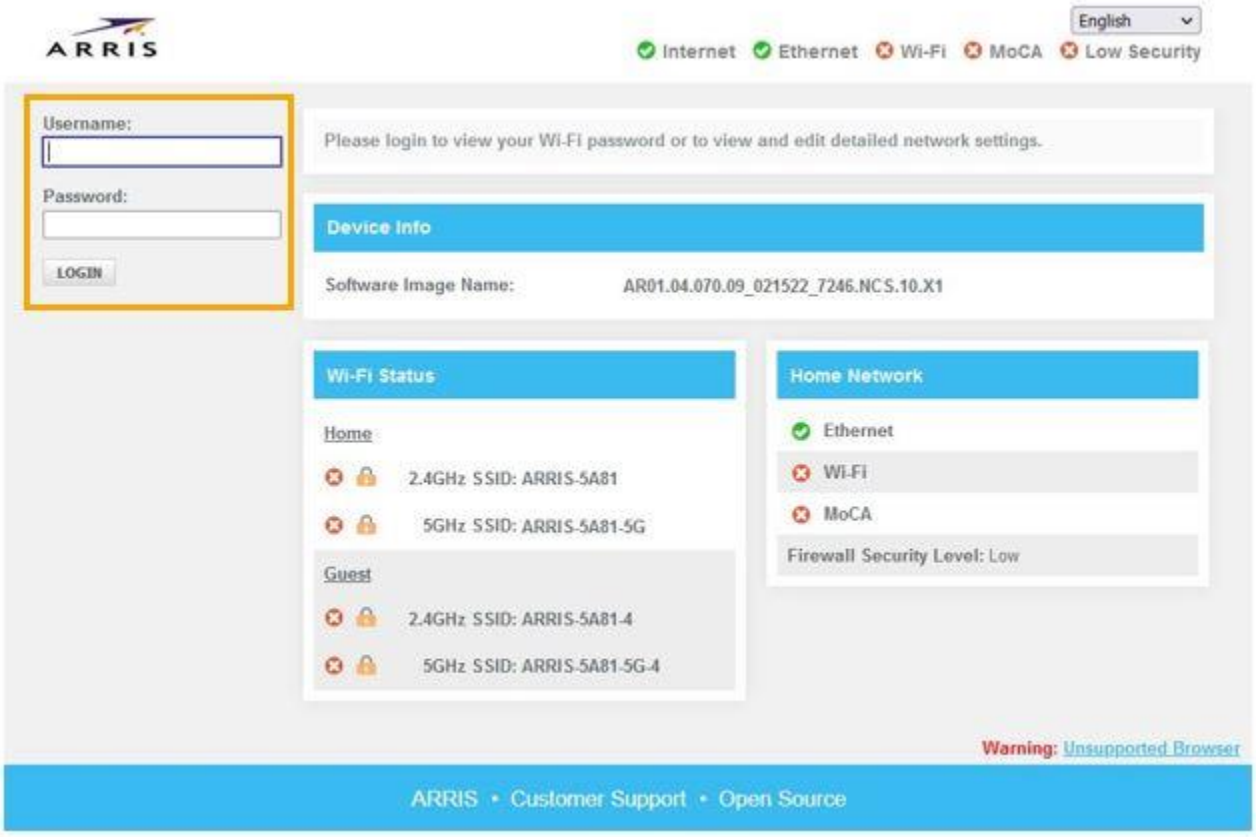


5. Click **Apply**.

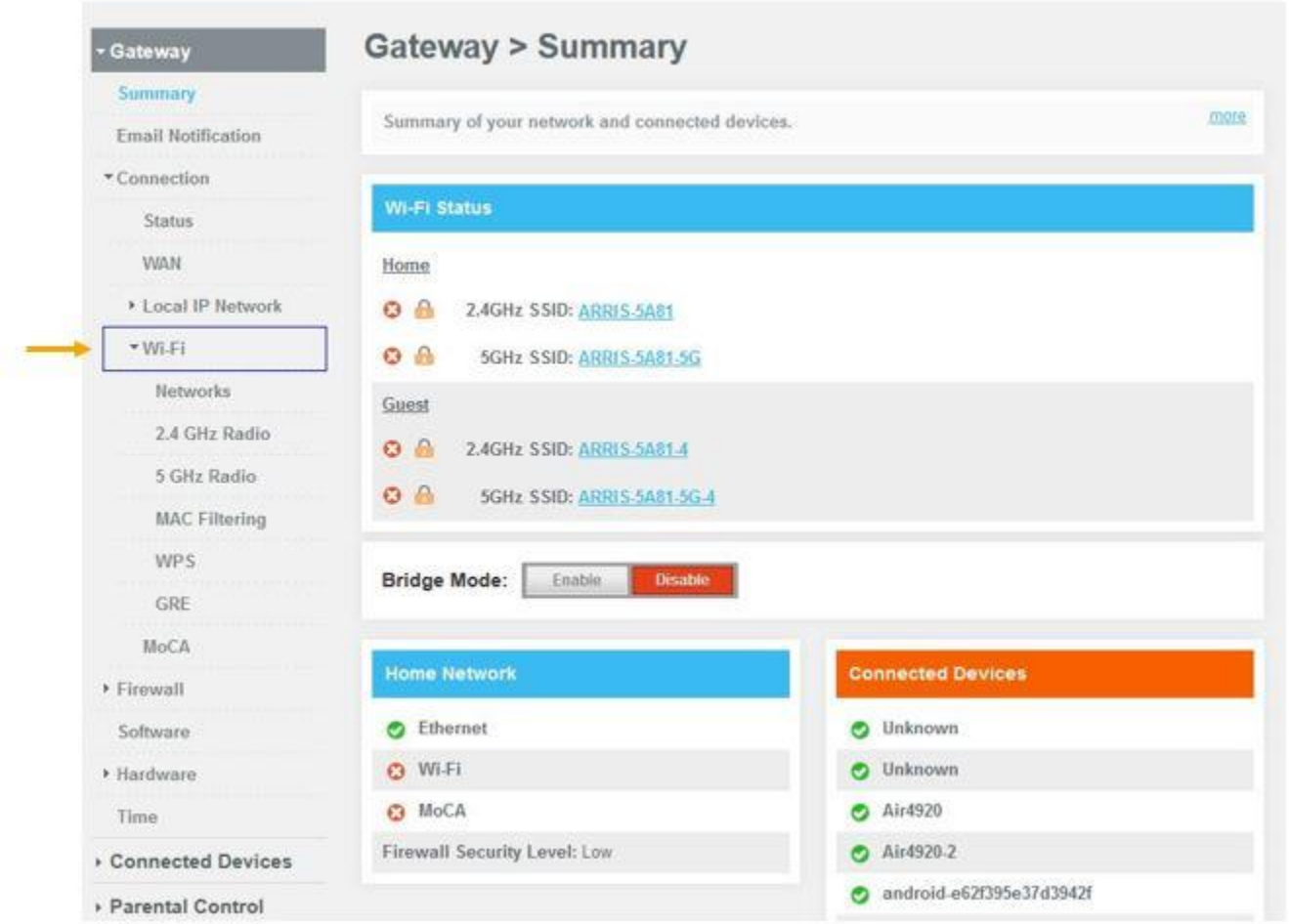


ARRIS Routers:

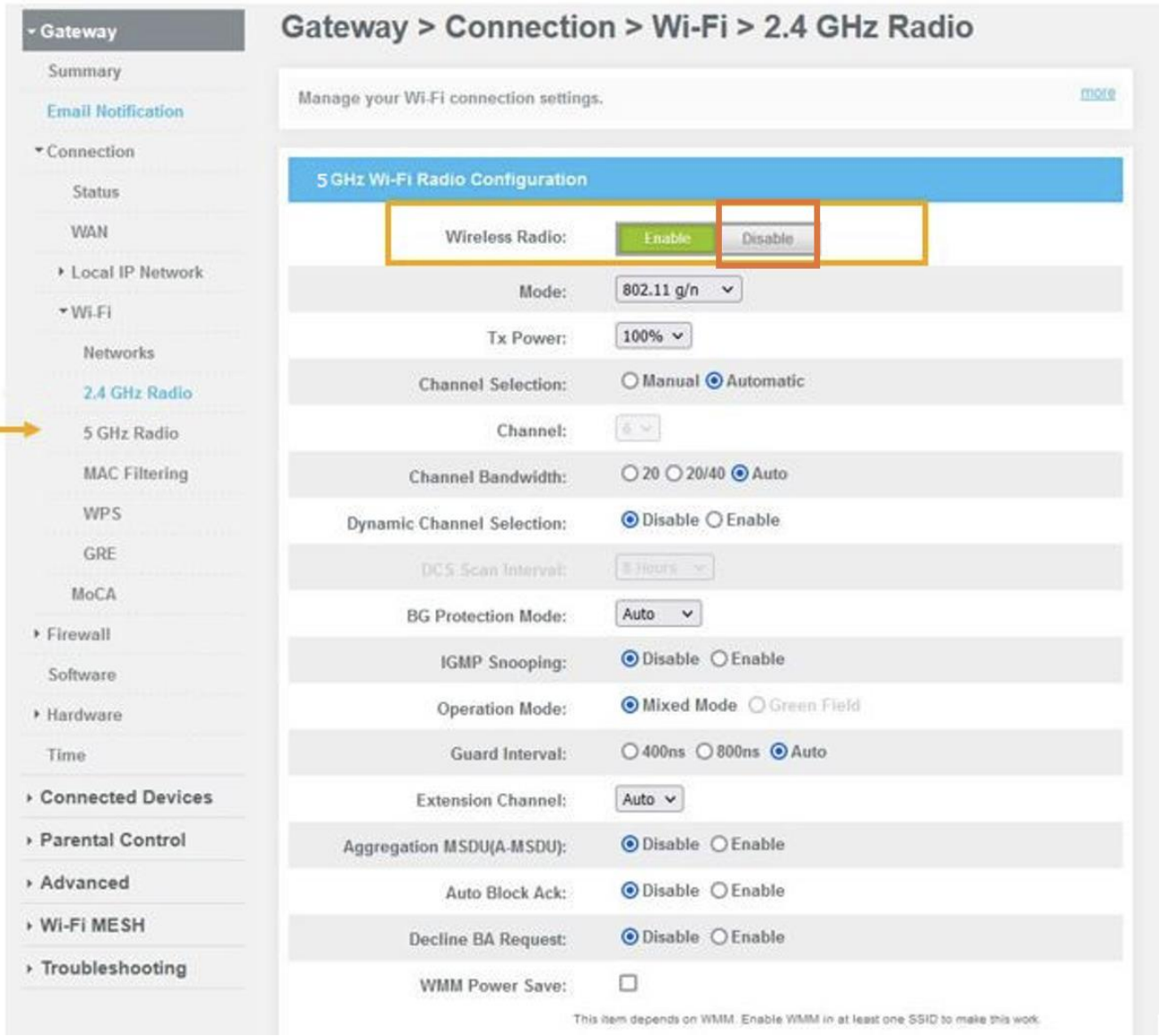
1. Log in to the router's web interface (often http://10.0.0.1) and then login. Unless you have changed the default username and password, the username should be "admin" and the password "password."



2. Click on **Gateway > Connection**.
3. Click on **Wi-Fi**.



4. Click on **5 GHz Radio**.
5. Click on "**Disable**" on the **Wireless Radio** option.



Google Nest Wi-Fi / Google Wi-Fi:

- These systems are designed for simplicity and typically don't offer granular control over disabling specific bands from the web interface. They use band steering to automatically connect devices to the optimal band.
- **Google Nest Wi-Fi does not allow at this time for shut off of 5 GHz networks across all devices. For this reason, it is not the best choice for a wireless router operating within the WVRAZ.**
