



VIRGINIA SECTION HAM RADIO NEWS QSL! #17

September 2020

Dave Minyard KM4FOX, Newly- Minted VA ARES PIO ,Gets the Word Out!

Dave Minyard KM4FOX has hit the ground running in his new position. VA ARES PIO. Over the past few months, Dave has worked hard on getting the word out. When the new VA Section ARES-VOAD relationship developed, Dave sent out Press Releases and Letter to the Editors to a plethora of news outlets in the Commonwealth. During the first week of August, Dave Williams K7HMP out of Stafford saw the VA ARES-VOAD article in the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star and Dave Minyard discovered a Letter to the Editor he wrote in the Brunswick Times. His work shows that there are many ways to get the word out and we must MUST market ourselves in order to protect our self- interests.

It's not enough to hand out wallpaper to each other; we must honor and thank those who will publicize our efforts. So, while you make friends with local politicians and Emergency Managers, take the time, like Wayne Rash N4 HCR of Lynchburg and Manassas and Dwight Rohr W4SPJ of the Covington, VA area to get to know your local newspaper reporters and editors. Jim Merritt KK4IUH and his Powhatan club got to know Laura McFarland at the Powhatan Today and as a result, an article about their Winter Field Day was placed in that paper and the Richmond Times Dispatch. Just a little effort reaps great rewards. Please send me any published articles .

Dave Minyard's LTE:

Brunswick Times

See next page

Virginia ARES update provided

Aug 3, 2020

To the Editor:

Virginia ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) is pleased to announce that they have been accepted and are now officially members of the Virginia VOAD (Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster – <https://vavoad.org>). VOAD serves the community in times of disaster, and ARES is an integral part of providing emergency communications. As such, this builds a more effective foundation for serving the needs of community in difficult times. ARES is part of the ARRL, Amateur Radio Relay League, and is responsible for emergency communications utilizing Amateur Radio. Essential communication is a vital part to any aspect of emergency operation and ARES provides a key role that does not require landlines or cell phones to transmit essential communications. They have the ability to transmit without the need of normal communications, thus assuring the flow if situational awareness and vital needs to those that need to receive that information. This is a volunteer role, and those who participate are trained to work in difficult environments. They are pleased to be part of Virginia VOAD and look forward to building relationships and adding effective communications to the very essential role that VOAD has in Virginia. To learn more about Amateur Radio, visit the ARRL website at www.arrl.org.

Dave Minyard, PIO

Virginia ARES

Continued on the Next Page

ON the ARES/RACES FB Page :

ARES In The News!

Skulking back on Page Charlie Six of the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star newspaper, I happened upon a small item with the headline AMATEUR RADIO JOINS DISASTER RESPONSE GROUP. The article announced, "Virginia ARES, Amateur Radio Emergency Service, has been accepted as an official member of the Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster." It then briefly explains VOAD, ARES, Amateur Radio and ARRL roles during emergency situations. The article also provided the URLs for the ARRL and Virginia VOAD.

73, Dave - K7HMP ~ Stafford, Virginia

The Free Lance-Star

AMATEUR RADIO JOINS DISASTER RESPONSE GROUP

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Those who participate this volunteer role are trained to work in difficult environments. They are pleased to be part of Virginia VOAD and look forward

to building relationships and adding effective communications to the very essential role that VOAD has in Virginia. To learn more, visit arrl.org; and vavoad.org

Letter to the Editor Suggestions

By

Mike Murphy KD7PUF

Personal relationships count.

Do your homework (e.g., 200, 250, 300 words or Op-Ed).

Use tools (e.g., Grammarly) to help you learn to write better.

Use email or website form mailer (with embedded links).

Cross-post when possible (social media, other avenues, etc.).

Always give credit where credit is due (more about this later).

Don't expect to get published, but be happy when you do.

Never give up!

As for the letter itself...

Keep your letter brief

State who you are and what you want upfront

Highlight your top two or three most important points

Personalize your letter

Personalize your relationship

Remember that you are the expert



PS - Remember to give credit where credit is due

<https://www.aclu.org/other/tips-writing-letter-editor>

<https://www.aclu.org/other/tips-writing-your-elected-officials>

VA Section News Recognition from ARRL

Hi, Joe.

Thank you for sharing this Section News publication. It's an impressive presentation of news and activities! Nice work by Ed, you and all your team members in Virginia.

73,

Steve Ewald, WV1X

Supervisor, Field Organization Team

ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio®

860-594-0265

sewald@arrl.org



**THE EVOLUTION OF WEATHER
COMMUNICATIONS IN THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS
by Dwight M. Rohr, W4SPJ**

I fondly remember seeing my first weather report in the 1950's published in the upper corner of the Covington Virginian newspaper banner. The newspaper featured the daily evening and next day weather. The forecast was written by the National Weather Service and was updated throughout the day and sent by teletype; journalists called 'the news machine.'

There were three news services going at the time: Associated Press, United Press International and Reuters. The big three were set-up to serve their subscriber-owner newspaper and later radio and television affiliates.

While newspapers ripped the weather from the long continuous sheets and published the report; for radio and television it was 'rip and read.' The Virginian played an active role for years as a contributor as well as a subscriber to AP. WCFV (WXCF) also were active in sending news to AP and broadcasting the weather. Covington station WKEY received their weather and news from United Press International and that relationship was terminated in favor of joining the Virginia News Network who also provided weather for the Alleghany Highlands by audio.

In 1974, WKEY became my new home for radio broadcasting. Weather was read off the news machine and we received the Aviation weather over the phone from Ingalls Field in Bath County. I would call an 'Enterprise' number which predated the 800 numbers used today. The report was announced by one of the control employees, recorded at WKEY and played over the air several times each day. The aviation forecasts became important news for the smaller Covington and Low Moor airports which now belong to history.

The news machines allowed the announcer to put a personality behind the delivery of the weather. Of course, I found out quickly that the forecast was not always right, and I was embarrassed at least one time when the owner of a



local music store phoned the station and said, “Mr. Rohr, I have you know that I am shoveling your ten percent chance of precipitation off my front porch!” Without skipping a beat, I wrote in another 0 after the 10.

Once at home, I would get on the Citizens Band Radio. I discovered the ‘handle’ or the name I was using was in use by another. After going through several name changes, I settled on a ‘handle’ nobody would want to have, ‘The Weatherman.’ It was a name that would serve me well until I became a licensed amateur radio operator. My closing remarks on CB radio were, “This is one Weatherman, we’re partly cloudy and clear.”

Back at WKEY the top of the news came in two reports each day: Horton Berne of the Covington, Virginian and Todd Clay of the Clifton Forge Daily Review; followed by the local forecast read by one of the Virginia Network News Anchors out of Charlottesville. Later VNN would contract with several different forecast companies to provide its affiliates with the weather.

Meanwhile, a meteorologist from the National Weather Service in Roanoke announced that they had placed their own radio station on-the-air from Woodrum Field, now headquartered in Blacksburg at Virginia Tech. Reception of the NOAA station was difficult here in the highlands until the transmitter was relocated on top of the WVTF tower on Poor Mountain near Roanoke. The computerized voice was kind of crude but improved along with technology. Phipps codes were added to newer radio receivers which could be activated by the NWS in Blacksburg when severe weather occurs.

Amateur Radio operators now are among the Skywarn spotters providing local weather in extreme conditions to NWS personnel. W4SPJ provides current temperature and weather condition with the Blacksburg local forecast each morning on Facebook. A Skywarn Net is held each Wednesday at 9 PM on several linked repeaters in a three-state coverage area.

Modes of delivery are now in the hands of many Newspaper, TV , radio, and independent forecasting companies, but all-weather information traces back to the work of the meteorologists at Blacksburg, Virginia. As the late great Paul Harvey would say, “and now you know the rest of the story!”

Brendan KM4HRR Continues His Fabulous HAM Adventures!



Brendan, KM4HRR

Brendan contacts the ISS using APRS

Brendan's setup:

- Kenwood TH-D74 transceiver with custom ISS profile.
- Arrow II portable antenna.
- iPhone (or Android) running the [ISS Detector](#) app.

At about five minutes before the pass, the ISS Detector sent an alert. Then, using the iPhone camera, also controlled by the ISS Detector, Brendan pointed the antenna at the horizon. Right on time, he received an APRS beacon from the ISS and, over the next few minutes, Brendan sent and received several APRS messages. He had added several macros to his ISS profile on the TH-D74 to make it easy to send messages during the 5-6 minute pass.

**Thanks to Dean, KK4DAS for the ISS text and photo.



FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees

08/28/2020

[UPDATED 2020-09-01 @1845 UTC] Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "[Ray Baum's Act](#)."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its *NPRM*, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees. "[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its *NPRM*. "For these automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required."

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for vanity call signs. "Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee," the FCC said.

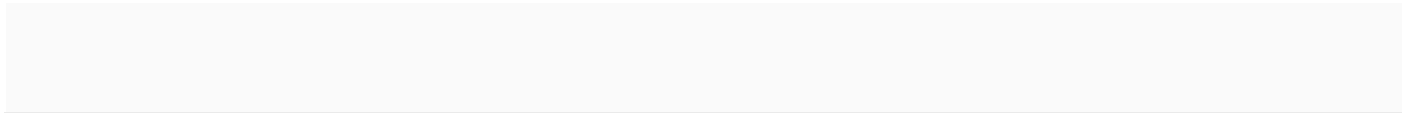
The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates, such as mailing address changes for amateur applications, and amateur radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. "For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge," the FCC said.



The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. “The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover the costs of these services,” the FCC said.

The Ray Baum’s Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago.

ARRL is reviewing the matter and intends to file comments in opposition. Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the *NPRM* appears in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties may file comments by using the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (**ECFS**), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open to accept comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set.





From the ARRL:

New Contest for Portable Stations to Debut

A new amateur radio contest for portable operators -- the Fox Mike Hotel Portable Operations Challenge ([POC](#)) -- will debut October 3 - 4. The event is aimed at leveling the competitive playing field between fixed stations and portable stations. [Scoring](#) for the POC, based upon a kilometers-per-watt metric, will be handicapped in favor of the portables. The contest is the brainchild of Frank Howell, K4FMH. Sponsors include *National Contest Journal* ([NCJ](#)) -- an ARRL publication -- but the POC will not be an official *NCJ* or ARRL contest.



"*NCJ*'s role is to encourage hams who don't contest to give it a try," *NCJ* Editor Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD, said. "It will encourage activity by operators who are limited by real estate and do not have a full-blown contest station. Events like this stimulate more interest in contesting, and this will have an international scope to give chances to snare some new DXCC entities."

The [contest rules](#) say scoring will be calculated using the distance between stations (Maidenhead grid squares) in kilometers divided by power output in watts. Fixed (QTH) stations will compete against portable (P) stations on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Allowable modes include phone, CW, and digital.

The exchange is call sign, station class (P or Q), consecutive serial number, and four-character grid square.

Contact [Howell](#) for more information. Read [more](#).



New NASA video | Students Use Ham Radio to Call an Astronaut in Space

YouTube

[Students Use Ham Radio to Call an Astronaut in Space](https://youtu.be/1cIACXLdDhs)

<https://youtu.be/1cIACXLdDhs>

NASA Johnson Space Center (YouTube), August 25, 2020

Twitter

[Canadian students participating from home used ham radio to talk with @Astro Seal aboard the station on May 15, 2020.](https://twitter.com/Space_Station/status/1298273936124153860)

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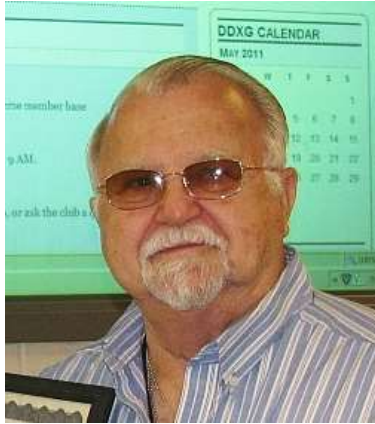
**Ed Williams KN4KL A Good Virginia Ham
Born and Bred in the Commonwealth of Virginia**

A man was telling jokes the other day, when another gent approached him and said, "You must be an Amateur Radio Operator!" The man responded, why yes, how did you know?

The gent said. "I can smell a Virginia Ham a hundred miles away!"

From Dwight Rohr W4SPJ

Congratulations, Dr. Joe



Ed,

Last evening at the RATS Board of Directors meeting our friend and longtime ham respectfully known as a “Dr. Joe” K3WRY was included as a Lifetime Member of the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society (RATS Club). Also included was Steve Crow KG4PEQ, and Jay Lovelady KJ4VPZ.

73

Jim KK4IUH

EC Powhatan



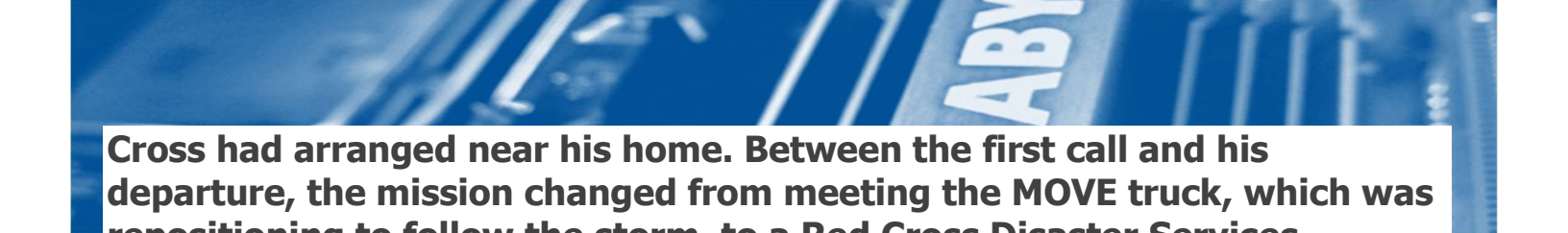
Volunteer Spotlight: Steve Kemp



Honoring Steve Kemp KX4EF

Posted on [July 18, 2020](#) by [IEEE-USA](#)

Steve Kemp first became involved in IEEE MOVE at SoutheastCon 2014 in Lexington, Kentucky. Little did he know that in October 2016 he would get 'one of those calls' from Mary Ellen Randall and find 'yes' coming out of his mouth before his brain engaged in the conversation. Within 2 hours, he had taken a couple of prerequisite Red Cross courses, passed a background check, and was on his way to pick up a rental car that Red

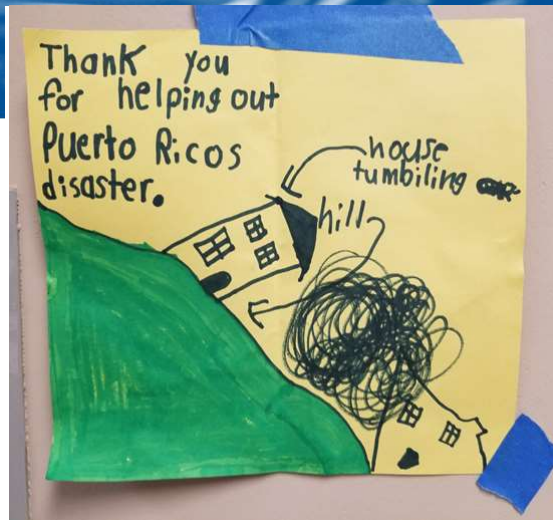


Cross had arranged near his home. Between the first call and his departure, the mission changed from meeting the MOVE truck, which was repositioning to follow the storm, to a Red Cross Disaster Services Technology (DST) assignment in Wilmington, NC—if he could get there before the storm hit. He made it just in time to hunker down and sit out the Hurricane, which caused substantial damage, followed by major flooding. Seeing a few people in his hotel wearing Red Cross vests, he joined in and helped put the early planning together as it was too windy to leave the hotel. It was a second day before he could report to the newly established District Office, which had a preliminary set-up before the storm.

Keith Savage, an experienced DST lead and a great mentor, was really helpful when Kemp discovered that his 1-week mobilization was a two-week obligation; but he was learning so much and quickly given sufficient responsibility, that he extended twice for a total of a month on the job.

Every day was a new assignment. The coaching was thorough but gentle, and his mistakes were few and disclosed early enough to draw not much more than a knowing wince from his mentor. Kemp adapted quickly to the new and ever-changing demands, managed to complete much of an online night training DST-101 course in equipment, capabilities and operations and went on to attend a 3-day Hands-on-Training (HOT) in Baltimore the following Spring. There, he worked in a simulated disaster with much of the equipment inventory available for a DST response.

In the Fall of 2017, Kemp was mobilized for Hurricane Harvey in Texas and spent a month in Houston, arriving just in time to relieve Grayson Randall and Tim Forrest, who had just equipped the opening of the Houston Convention Center which overnight became home to 12,000 displaced workers.



A week after getting home, Kemp mobilized again for another month in Houston, then a few weeks later, a month in Puerto Rico, where he joined a team setting up power and satellite voice and data communications for the residents of a different municipality each day, sites that had been darkened and silenced by the hurricanes. Puerto Rico has 78 such municipalities and all were severely damaged by back-to-back Hurricanes Irma and Maria. It wasn't until his return from Puerto Rico that Kemp got a ride on the MOVE truck Everywhere, he went, he was an ambassador for the MOVE Initiative and for IEEE and was warmly welcomed to every assignment. Steve deployed to the Tennessee Tornadoes in the truck in March 2020.

Thank you, Steve!

Hello all,

I shared this with my local group here in Nevada and the boss lady AA7HV the Nevada PIC :-) thought I should pass it along to this group. This is a video that was created by the Radio Society of Great Britain. I would suggest subscribing to the channel as they do quite a lot of great videos on all kinds of amateur radio subjects from working with a Pi to small antennas.

I would like to see the ARRL do some stuff like this. I have a suggestion that maybe we can work with some of the great YouTube ham radio channels to put more information in the forefront. I saw a recent study that was completed by the National Broadcast Association that shows the average 13-30-year-old watches more YouTube than other forms of TV or streaming.

As an aside I would be willing to be a part of a group that works with the ARRL and the YouTube content providers if we would to go that way. Josh KI6NIZ of Ham Radio Crash Course has over 100,000 subscribers of all ages so he might be able to provide some insight. I know he would be willing to work with us, he even put a call out on his channel for more content providers for ham radio.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8x6x_6mDVIQ

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73 de Chris NO7E
ARRL Public Information Officer
Nevada Section
NO7E@arrl.net
702-292-0880

From Helen Cliff

The Students at Sterling Middle school have exciting news. GO, PIONEERS! Excited to have been selected from across the country for LIVE contact with the International Space Station supported by ARISS! @ISS_Research @ARISS_status @k4lrg @sparcradio @LCPSScience @LCPSEdTech #crosscurricularPBL #lcps21 #empoweringourstudents #cOURAge2020

From the ARRL:

K1USN Radio Club Announces New Weekly Slow-Speed CW Contest

09/04/2020

The K1USN Radio Club in Massachusetts is launching a new weekly, hour-long, slow-speed contest, the **K1USN SST**. The inaugural session will be on Monday, September 14, from 0000 – 0100 UTC (Sunday, September 13, in North American time zones). K1USN trustee Pi Pugh, K1RV, said the decision to embark on sponsorship of a new operating event involved surveying some 2,000 radio amateurs to gauge their enthusiasm for such an event. Pugh said the club worked with a group of **CWops** members within the club, with the blessing of the CWops CW Academy Advisor Group. CWops is not involved in sponsoring the K1USN SST.

“The survey was sent to all 2,000 recent CW Academy graduates,” Pugh told ARRL. “We sent it using Mailchimp and were able to obtain a detailed breakout on the survey questions, which we have forwarded to the CWA Advisor group.” The 800 who responded indicated an overwhelming need for some sort of slow-speed activity as a follow-up to CW Academy.


“It was a lot of work, but we hope this will prove to be a valuable tool within the CW community,” Pugh said.

Although predicated on the desires of the CWA community, Pugh stressed that the weekly activity will be open to all looking to improve their CW skills. It can also provide a more comfortable entry point for those just getting started in CW contesting.

The SST is also for operators who currently participate in regular CWT sessions, but only as search-and-pounce (S&P) operators. “The weekly 20 WPM or slower SSTs can build confidence to find open frequencies and begin calling CQ,” Pugh suggested. Participants are advised to be patient, supportive, and willing to slow down as necessary.

Suggested frequencies are 3.532 – 3.539 on 80 meters; 7.032 – 7.039 MHz on 40 meters, and 14.032 – 14.039 MHz on 20 meters. Stations exchange name and state/province/country.

An **N1MM Logger+** User Defined Contest (**UDC**) file is available.



Alexandria Radio Club's VA QSO Party Results

From: RickN4ASX

RESULTS FROM THE VA. QSO Party.

Randy Kelly, WB4MJF, received the certificates for those of us in the club who submitted logs for the VA QSO Party. Randy was OVERALL high score for the QSO Party this year.

88,220 points, High Virginia Single Operator Phone Low Power

Richard C. Adamy, KA4GFY, 4,900 points, High Fairfax Mixed Mode All-Band High-Power Single Operator

Jack Jarnicki, K5OTZ (SK), 580 points, 4th High Virginia Mobile Phone, All Bands, Low Power Single Operator

Larry D. Walker K4LDW, 1 point, 2nd High Fairfax 40m

Paul Fiorino, K4FIO, 406 points, 4th High Arlington Phone

Steve L. Herman, W7VOA, 182 points 8th High Fairfax Phone All Band Low Power Single Operator.

Ian H. Keith, N8IK, 390 points, 2nd High Alexandria Phone

Harry L. Jones, N4CWP, 110 points 9th High Fairfax Phone All-Bands Low Power Single Operator

Richard Bunn, N4ASX, 7,595 points, 3rd High Phone All-Bands Low Power Single Operator



Donovan J. Lewis, KI4D, 225 points, 7th High Fairfax Phone All-Bands Low Power Single Operator.

We had 10 logs submitted which is, I think an ALL TIME HIGH for our club. Special thanks to Randy for getting the certificates, I will get them out to everyone soon and for his points that set a new standard for us. Thanks for all who work the QSO Party.

73 Rick

N4ASX

Vienna Wireless Society Team Effort in North American QSO Party (NAQP) SSB

Members of the Vienna Wireless Society (www.viennawireless.net) operated August 15 and 16 in the NAQP SSB Contest. The team effort from individuals operating at their own stations garnered a total of 1189 QSOs. The club regularly operates a variety of NAQP events in SSB, CW, and RTTY to get new members on the air, provide an opportunity for younger members to operate and see stations in action, and for all-around fun and camaraderie. While COVID 19 has put a slight “crimp” in the events, the club still manages to have fun and get on the air. Members contributing to the event were Bill Mims, W2WCM; Don Taylor, KM4UDX; Pete Hadley, K6BFA; and Leon Bruner, NT8B. Don, KM4UDX, demonstrated the power of QRP. VWS members are looking forward to NAQP events in 2021 when they hope to be back together using the club call sign K4H



Shack of Bill Mims, W2WCM (right); Local ARES Member Shawn Stokes (left)


Subject: OBX experiment from Bill Sterling, K4000

Hello, Ed

This is an FYI

This past week, my wife and I were at the Outer Banks in Nags Head. Before we left to go there, club members WA4MBS Sid and WA4TVN Jim had a thought that we try to have a 2-meter QSO on the KX4NC machine in Columbia, NC. If you're not familiar with this repeater, the antenna sits on a tower at 1200 feet. Jim had indicated he was able to get into it periodically with 100 watts from his home QTH in Albemarle. His antenna elevation is about 630' ASL with a clear shot to the southeast. Sid, even with an amplifier, was not able to trip the repeater. Even though his elevation is like Jim's, he is surrounded by a forest.

With Jim, all week the results were "iffy", and at sometimes quite readable. But Sunday morning, our last day there was the charmer. Although there was a lot of static, we had 100% copy for about 20 minutes. The distance from Jim's QTH to the Columbia repeater is about 196 miles.



While we were having our Sunday QSO, K4YF Edgar, a relative local, happened to chime in with us and gave us some details about the repeater; the repeater itself is also on the tower at an elevation of about 1100+ feet, with 7/8 inch hardline going up the rest of the way. I can't imagine someone having to scale the heights to perform any sort of repair. He also indicated that it's not uncommon for that repeater to reach down to Florida and up to New England when conditions are right.

Because club activity is at a lull these days, we try to capitalize on anything that anyone might be doing by themselves to keep up the interest.

Bill, k4000

ARES Connect Information from Scott Tonally, N8SY, Section Manager - Ohio

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to tell you that there is a new "Frequently Ask Questions" and "Ask Your Questions Here" Area on-line for specifically for ARES Connect.

At the request of many folks, I have created a Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ) area about ARES Connect. You'll find a lot of information is already there with answers.

Now, if you don't find what you're looking for there, you can ask away on our "on-line" guru area. You can type in your question there.

Do you need help getting folks entered ARES Connect? Help is available with that as well.

Give it a try.... Here's the link... <http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/hints.html>

73, and stay safe my friends!!

Scott N8SY

Excerpts from Dr. Joe's September-October Newsletter

The International Space Station (ISS) has received a new ham radio and cross band retranslate IORS, uplink is 145.990Mhz with tone : 67Hz (CTCSS) and downlink of 437.800Mhz. The new radio system will improve the ham radio contacts with school educational programs as well as individual ham contacts.

The FCC has proposed a new fee's NPRM in MD Docket 20-270 for amateur radio as well all types of communications systems licenses. For many years internal budgets were simply taxpayer financed. The new NPRM is designed to raise self-funding for the licensing operations. The \$ 50.00 amateur radio fee covers each transaction made. Example is new license, renew license, vanity call, etc.

ARES programs with CONNECT are continuing to grow each month. Virginia ARES is moving forward with new DEC's and EC's in the new ARES/VDEM district format. Increased EC educational programs are being implemented and are becoming well accepted. The DERECHO storm that raised havoc in the Midwest did have some effect in Virginia with minor damages.

Hurricane Laura while expected to eventually migrate into Virginia, did drop a lot of rain had caused some flooding in western part of the state, but thankfully was not as bad as it could have been. Preparations were in place by all ARES groups and emergency services on the gulf coast as well as here in Virginia. Hurricane watch net was active for over 29 hours straight. The FCC granted a temporary waiver to permit PACTOR 4 for 30 days for emergency communications. Hurricane season is still here so we must all stay vigilant along with our SKYWARN members. Many Zoom meetings are the norm now for emergency preparations as well normal club meetings. The WINLINK Wednesday net is still going strong with many nets having total check in of over 200+ messages.

Plans for the RED Cross exercise which include, ARES, and other emergency communications operations on November 14, 2020 are being formulated from the success of our exercise earlier this year. This will be a nationwide exercise. The ARRL SET is planned for October 3-4 this year is also being planned for our Virginia ARES and other EMCOMM groups currently. Details of both plans will be sent via a Virginia Section newsletter as we get closer to exercise time. In the meantime, communications with all participants are ongoing currently as part of the planning processes.

There are now many new 30-minute webinars offered on many Amateur Radio subjects like, Antennas, Amplifiers, ARES, Ding, and other technical subjects. These can be found listed in QST as well as on the ARRL web site.

The Culpeper Amateur radio Assn. (CARA) is going to host “Junk in the trunk” on Oct 10th, at the Culpeper Agricultural Enterprise, 10220 James Monroe Hwy, Culpeper Va. Cost is \$ 5.00 per car. Contact Mike Moore K4MVM@arrl.net. Covid 19 restrictions will be followed.



East Coast Ham Operators September Presentation: Steve Galchutt - WGØAT 'HF SOTA Equipment'

Description

By popular demand within the SOTA community, the September ECHO presentation will be presented by iconic outdoor adventurer, photographer and longtime QRP Ham Radio enthusiast Steve Calcutta - WG0AT. He's been enjoying Summits on The Air (SOTA) and National Parks on the Air (POTA) while adding to their popularity. You may have seen one of his many YouTube hikes in the Rockies with his pack goat trail buddies Peanut and Boo. Steve has shared these passions and is well known on the World Wide Web as the “GoatHiker”. He will be sharing his trend setting refinements in light travel HF

activations. As always, you will have the opportunity to speak with Steve following the presentation. This presentation also serves as a good

introduction to SOTA activations. Check out Steve's videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/goathiker>

Time

Sep 22, 2020 23:30 UTC

Sep 22, 2020 07:30 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register to attend the Zoom Presentation at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctfuygqzkvEtE0IHG5qFEKAt2VWR0ob49o?fbclid=IwAR1QEwqdPPM5ykON_kGACpOujMyadf8U9X8dcuyOvDax03e6PmjworBUP9g

We will open the Zoom web link at 7:00 PM EDT for those who would like to arrive early and chat prior to the Presentation at 7:30 pm. We will mute all microphones 1 minute before the start time. If you have a question during the presentation, use the Chat feature to enter your question and an ECHO host will prepare a list for Steve, WG0AT at the end of the presentation.

If this is your first time hearing about EAST COAST HAM RADIO OPERATORS (ECHO), a little history. About 17 weeks ago a group of Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia Amateur Radio Operators got together at a ZOOM meeting on a Friday evening just having a ragchew. We all talked about not being able to have our club meetings and spending time as a group and enjoying a program. Foolishly, I said maybe we could use Zoom to have a program that a larger group could enjoy safely and chat before and after a program just like at a club meeting. Our first presentation was with Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, founder and owner of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. Actually, not as much as a presentation but a personal visit in his den for about 90 minutes. We asked if it would be OK for us to record the presentation and post on YouTube for others to enjoy. Here's the link : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP-gkJVxKm1iS43RwYsaKuA>

Get yourself a beverage, get comfortable in your chair and spend a great time with Martin.

We were also lucky enough again with Ed Gibbs, KW4GF being able to speak with Bob Heil, K9EID about a program. Here's the

link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsbB_x07fkM&t=83s

It seemed that the presentations were enjoyed by many hams, that Ed Gibbs, KW4GF, Public Information Coordinator for the ARRL Virginia

Section reached out to Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, Co-Founder of Elecraft for a program. Here's the

link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW1jl8qqpVs&t=36s>

See y'all on Tuesday, September 22 !

'73

Mike, W4MAF & David, WD30


VA Section PIO Training Planned

Ed Gibbs KW4GF will host a VA Section PIO Training on Tuesday September 29, 2020, at 7:30 PM. Wayne Rash N4HCR will conduct training on developing effective relations with local media.

All VA Section PIO's are invited, and all PIO's currently on Ed's list will receive an invitation. To get on Ed's PIO list, please contact him at KW4GF@ARRL.net. If your club does not currently have a PIO but needs developing a PR approach, please contact him for an invite. All clubs in the VA Section are invited to participate.



Wayne Rash N4HCR



What is your club doing? Please let me know and I'll publicize it. Send me your more Field Day Soapbox. Send me 13 Colonies or Special Event information. Send me information about new hams or I want to hear from clubs and individuals!!!!



Ed Gibbs KW₄GF

ARRL VA Section Public Information Coordinator

[KW₄GF@ARRL.net](mailto:KW4GF@ARRL.net)

Twitter: @ARRLVIRGINIA

Instagram: ARRLVIRGINIA



ED GIBBS KW₄GF
PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR
KW₄GF@ARRL.NET

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