

August Section Manager's Report, Virginia Section

Covering the month of July

++

Safety message.

We're getting into the thick of tropical storm season, and some of us have unfortunately already had our first taste of it.

I encourage everyone to review their personal emergency plans, and make sure that you are able to take care of yourself and your family, including the small furry members. Have an evacuation kit, and remember to never drive through flood waters. Just because you can see the guard-rails or other items does not mean the road is still there.

++

Contest Calendar

August

20-21 10GHz and Up, Round 1

21 Rookie Roundup – RTTY

27-28 Earth Moon Earth (EME) 2.3GHz and Up

September

10-12 September VHF

17-18 10 GHz and Up, Round 1

17-18 EME 2.3GHz and Up

++

Affiliated Clubs

From the VA ACC Mike WA8AHZ:

Five hundred new Hams have been licensed in Virginia since the beginning of the year -- an average of 75 new Hams per month. As a nation-wide statistic, more than half of new Hams never get on the air (or only do so a few times and drop the hobby). For the new hams reading this update, if you haven't already done so, consider reaching out to a local radio club. Seek an ELMER (mentor) to help you learn more about the hobby, and get you on the air! Looking for a local club? ARRL provides a "find a club" website at: <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. For the more experienced Hams: consider volunteering as an ELMER -- you'll learn a lot and make a life-long friend. Questions about Clubs, drop me an email at: WA8AHZ <at> arrl.net
<http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits>

++

Section Manager Events/Scheduling

If your club, ARES group, or even a partner organization would like for me to speak with them, please contact me for scheduling. These engagements help us understand what the needs are in your area, and throughout the State. Please reach out to me at va.section.manager@gmail.com or jsmith@arrl.org

++

Upcoming events

Tidewater Hamfest, August 13. For more information go to <http://virginiabeachhamfest.com/>

Hurricane Season began 1 June, and runs through 30 November

For upcoming events throughout the ARRL® you can see:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search> for Hamfests/Conventions. This is particularly useful if you're traveling, or live near one of our neighboring states.

++

Position vacancies

The Virginia Section has many vacancies open. Some of these are the traditional ARRL appointments, but there are also a good number of non-traditional positions available which can contribute greatly to the Virginia Section. For more information on these, see https://emcommwiki.org/index.php?title=Virginia_Section_Help_Wanted! or feel free to contact me directly. To make the section successful, it takes a wide variety of skills.

Some of the things we're looking for that are non-traditional will be for the ARES® organization, and some will be for things like the GOTA For Life Initiative. There will be many opportunities to help lead the Virginia Section into the future.

++

Amateur Radio Emergency Services® (ARES®)

For the first time in Virginia, there has been an out-of-state mutual assistance request sent through formal channels. While the need did not materialize, the lessons learned from working with our Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) and neighboring ARES organizations was very valuable. The ARES® Mutual Assistance Team (MAT) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), developed by Wayne N1WR, and the Amateur Radio Resource Typing document, developed by John N5TIM, both proved to be valuable and easy to understand documents, even for those who had no amateur radio experience. The lessons learned will be incorporated into a document for later circulation.

https://emcommwiki.org/index.php?title=VA_ARES%C2%AE_Mutual_Assistance_Team_Standard_Operating_Procedure

For July there are 474 operator hours reported, which while this may sound low, is actually to be expected as this is on the heels of Field Day. This is 24 Emergency Coordinators representing over 30 Counties and Independent Cities.

++

Special Projects

+++

Get On The Air (GOTA) For Life

Ed KW4GF continues to work on the Get On The Air (GOTA) For Life

Those interested can contact Ed at KW4GF@ARRL.net

++

Closing comments

As always, should you have any question, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me. If it's something with your local organization, always try to work through them first. Of course, you do

not have to be a member of a club or ARES® unit to reach out to me regarding ARRL® Virginia concerns.

73,
Jack KE4LWT