

Virginia Section of the ARRL February 2026 Section Manager's Report

++Safety Note++

We are well into winter, and of course that brings numb fingers, chain-saws, generators, space heaters, and a host of other hazards. Safety equipment from gloves, fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide/gas alarms, and even shoe grippers to keep you on your feet (my rear end can attest to that being needed!). Also, a lot of us are on various and sundry medications that can affect our balance, dexterity, and stamina. Make sure you have evaluated all possible issues and have mitigated to the best of your ability before getting started. Remember, if you're injured or worse, you can't help your family or your community.

++W1AW America250 Worked All States (WAS) Event++

Hams in Virginia have the opportunity to operate using the ARRL call, W1AW from the evening of Mar 10th through the evening of Mar 17th. We'll operate as W1AW/4. You can operate any band/mode any time that is "open" and for as many days you can operate, limited by the operating privities of your FCC license. However, to operate you must sign up at the link below, and receive expressed operating permission from the W1AW Trustee to use the Club call.

Sign up:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uAGeVSKTefGVofy-gpho_QbEgLAC4IjldF2GBUN7wR0/edit?usp=sharing

Note all times on the spreadsheet are EST.

Contact Mike WA8AHZ@arrl.net if you have any questions.

++Affiliated Club Coordinator++

Can't make the ARRL VA Section Convention in person this year? Join via Zoom at:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82991785201?pwd=ZJp0tFWtvXQa5w0zilnBQDRorETsux.1>

If needed, the ID: 829 9178 5201 & Passcode: 385178 the Convention starts at 10;00 am on Sunday March 15th, at Oakton HS, Vienna Virginia.

Details at: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/arrl-va-section-convention-2/>

Welcome the newest ARRL Affiliated club in Virginia: The Fairfax Amateur Radio Society. The 72 ARRL Affiliated Clubs in Virginia are comprised of over 4,300 members, located across the entire commonwealth. For a map of all the Clubs in Virginia, see: <https://clubs.arrl.org/map/>

Mike WA8AHZ@arrl.net

+++Hamfests+++

I had the great pleasure of attending the Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club hamfest on February 7th. The weather was uncooperative, but yet the attendance was very good! Congratulations on putting on a great hamfest!

There are currently four hamfests identified for the remainder of 2026. The Vienna Winterfest is the Section Convention, and this may also be your opportunity to meet the incoming Section Manager, whoever that may be.

WINTERFEST 2026 - The National Capital Area Ham Radio Fair, ARRL Virginia State Convention

Start Date: 03/15/2026

End Date: 03/15/2026

Location: Oakton High School

2900 Sutton Road

Vienna, VA 22180

Website: <http://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest/>

Sponsor: Vienna Wireless Society

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 146.520 simplex FM or via repeaters K4HTA @ 146.685 (-) CTCSS – 110.9 Hz and K4XY @ 448.375(-) MHz

Public Contact: John Higi , W4FSO

9893 Georgetown Pike #153 Great Falls, VA 22066

Phone: 703-216-8368

Email: WINTERFEST@viennawireless.net

Thawfest IV

Start Date: 04/11/2026
End Date: 04/11/2026
Location: Madison County High School
68 Mountaineer Lane
Madison, VA 22727
Sponsor: Greene County Virginia Amateur Radio Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.47 MHz (-) PL 151.4
Public Contact: Larry Mezzoni , K4LRM
3442 Wolftown Hood Road Madison, VA 22727
Phone: 434-981-9844
Email: board@gcvarc.net

Manassas Hamfest
Start Date: 06/20/2026
End Date: 06/20/2026
Location: Colgan Sr. High School
13833 Dumfries Road
Manassas, VA 20108
Website: <https://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest/>
Sponsor: Ole Virginia Hams
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.970 - 100 Hertz
Public Contact: Theresa Heartney , KG4TVM
10535 Cedar Creek Drive Manassas, VA 20112
Phone: 703-257-3566
Email: theartney@hotmail.com

PVARC Tailgate Extravaganza
Start Date: 09/05/2026
End Date: 09/05/2026
Location: Jr OUAM Park
900 Shenandoah Avenue
Elkton, VA 22827
Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/pvarc/home>
Sponsor: Page Valley Amateur Radio Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.625 tone 131.8
Public Contact: MILAN SEIFERT , N0EUV
271 N. View Dr. Stanley, VA 22851

Phone: 703-244-0056

Email: seifemi@verizon.net

+++Contest Calendar+++

You can download the handy reference at:

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Calendar/ARRL%20Contests%20Calendar%202024-2025.pdf>

++Virginia QSO Party++

This year's Virginia QSO Party is scheduled for March 21st and 22nd.

This is a great event and opportunity to rack up those rare Counties/Independent Cities. This is organized by the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club. For more information, go to

<http://www.vagsoparty.com/>

++Section Manager Close-out++

Vote for your new Section Manager! Grab those ballots and get them out now! Deadline for returns; the Friday PRIOR or CORRESPONDING to February 20, 4 PM, counted the following Tuesday. Remember, it's your section, and your voice matters. As with other elections, if you don't vote, you've effectively voted to let others decide for you.

While I still have a little time left to serve, as soon as the new Section Manager is announced, I'll be working with whoever it is to hand over the reins as quickly as possible so that they can get started on 1 April. I look forward to watching the section lead the way!

73,

Jack KE4LWT

ARRL Virginia Section
Section Manager: Jack R Smith, KE4LWT
ke4lwt@arrl.org
