



**VIRGINIA SECTION SEVA, RICHMOND, EASTERN SHORE,
And MIDDLE PENINSULA HAM RADIO NEWS**

December 2025

Fellow ARRL Southeastern Virginia, Richmond Area Hams, Eastern Shore, Peninsula, and Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Operators,

For those who followed me years ago, I am renewing this monthly newsletter directed at you. In these pages, you will see information from our Section ACC, Mike Aimone WA8AHZ, and general announcements. I will once again request club news or find the news on webpages and social media. 2026 is the ARRL "Year of the Club, and it is my hope that you will be a participant. After a few inactive years, I am back and will work with the new Section Manager and my club, The Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club. Please forward news and pics via beachteach15 yahoo.com. Happy hamming and Happy New Year.

73,

Ed Gibbs KW4GF



Found on the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Club's FB Page. Congratulations to **Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service** President Shane Callaghan AH2EJ on being awarded the CARS Ham of the Year award. **Shane Callaghan** has done so much for CARS, this is an award that is well earned.



Exciting Events in Virginia and Nationally

From Mike Aimone WA8AHZ

- First, the W1AW/4 activation the week 11-17 March, 2026. Note this is 7-day event which spans Sunday, March 15th, which is the ARRL VA Section Convention, in Vienna Virginia. VA Hams can sign up to operate using the W1AW call sign from their QTH. There will be an on-line sign-up scheduling tool (TBD). Virginia is up again in July for a 2nd weeklong opportunity to use the W1AW/4 call
- Second, activating your club call sign to Work all States during the nation's semi quincentennial anniversary (WAS250). The idea is work all states in 2026, and as a bonus work all the W1AW/xxx sections throughout the year. The WAS250 award requires you to upload your club QSOs to LoTW. All QSOs count – regardless of if they are W1AW/xxx or not. You can activate your club call anytime in 2026. More details attached.
- **YEAR OF THE CLUB:** Further, there are two other contests part of the YOTC celebration: the **Club Website Contest** -- <https://www.arrl.org/club-website-contest> and **Club Newsletter Contest** -- <https://www.arrl.org/club-newsletter-contest> To be considered, your submittal needs to be received to ARRL by 30 January, 2026 by 4pm. Be part of the fun, and submit your website/newsletter to ARRL.

More about the YOTC events at: <https://www.arrl.org/year-of-the-club>



RASON (Radio Amateur Society of Norfolk) Awarded Grant

RASON has accepted our \$12,000 Grant from the MCA Day Grant Program.
Congratulations, RASON!

Mobile Communications America Celebrates 5th Annual MCA Day Grant Program, Awarding \$144,000 to Community Organizations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SPARTANBURG, S.C., December 1, 2025 – Mobile Communications America (MCA), a leader in communication and security solutions, proudly announces the winners of its 5th annual MCA Day Grant program. This year, 12 deserving non-profit organizations will each receive a \$12,000 grant, totaling \$144,000 in support of community-driven initiatives. This significant investment underscores MCA’s commitment to uplifting the communities its team members live and work in.

The MCA Day Grant program is a cornerstone of the company’s “Service First” culture, empowering team members to nominate organizations that are making a profound difference. The grants support non-profits dedicated to four critical focus areas: First Responders, Military/Veterans, STEM and technical/vocational education, and Public Health/Community Needs. The enthusiastic participation from team members resulted in 46 nominations from across the nation, highlighting a shared purpose to create lasting, positive change.



"Our commitment to a 'Service First' approach transcends our customers, reaching into the heart of our communities. The MCA Day Grant program is our investment in a shared future, celebrating local champions who inspire us and make a tangible difference every day," stated Vince Foody, CEO of MCA. *"These grants embody our 'Better Together' philosophy, uniting our team members' dedication to service with the vital work of non-profits. This creates a powerful ripple effect of positive change, strengthening the communities we all call home.*

The twelve recipient organizations were selected through a diligent review process conducted by a committee of MCA team members, the MCA Spartans, to ensure that funds are directed toward programs with significant community impact and a clear mission.





WINTERFEST: The Vienna Wireless hamfest – WINTERFEST is Sunday March 15, at Oakton HS starting at 8am. More info at: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest-key-info/> This is the 50th anniversary of WF, and hopefully we'll have a great turnout. Note, the ARRL VA Section Convention is hosted by WF, and the agenda is at: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/arrl-va-section-convention-2/> The Convention will introduce the new VA Section Manager, as Jack Smith, who has served for nearly four years as the SM is stepping down. Jack will use the Convention to turn over the SM leadership.

VA QSO Party: Thanks to the Sterling Park club for their efforts setting up the VQP the 3rd full week in March. We need all the Clubs in Virginia to participate – in fact activate your club call sign for the VQP and make it count as part of the WAS250 operating event. There is competition between State QSO Party teams ... let's work hard to beat out PA and NC this year.

The Year of the Club: ARRL has designated 2026 as the Year of the Club, and there are many activities planned. ARRL has created a webpage, tho this is a program in process so check back to the webpage from time to time. see: <https://www.arrl.org/year-of-the-club>

One initiative which will play out in the Virginia Section is the week-long activation of W1AW/4 during the ARRL VA Section Convention in March. (Before you ask, the Convention doesn't fall on top of the VA QSO Party). All the clubs will have the opportunity to sign up members as guest W1AW/4 operators from their home radio shacks. Our second week activating W1AW/4 will be in late July. We'll work it much like we did a few years ago with the Volunteers on the Air operating event. More to follow.

- Another initiative will be a special WAS certificate for each Club who works all states using their Club call sign (s) in 2026.
- Field Day, and Clubs will be a big thing.

November 16 ·

SPARK POTA Activation - US-3998 Ragged Island WMA

Don, KJ4MZ, organized a long overdue Shack Day for the SPARK members, an event the club had not experienced in quite a long time. The chosen location was US-3998 Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area, an ideal setting for bringing everyone together again to enjoy portable operations and shared time on the air. Visit the SPARK Website Gallery to see our full story and more photos:

https://w4qr.org/?page_id=165



Please note: Per the VA DWR, Virginia WMAs are now off limits to amateur radio operation.

If more information is needed, please contact Ed Gibbs, KW4GF, at

beachteach 15 @ yahoo.com or call 757-274-5793 and leave a message.



Special Service Clubs by Mike Aimone WA8AHZ

Why not become a Special Service Club: A club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio is what defines a Special Service Club (SSC). They are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating activities. To join the SSC Program please apply via: <https://www.arrl.org/ssc-application>

Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club K4RC December 8 at 9:58 AM ·

Great event yesterday at Busch Gardens: Christmas Town Dash 8K.

It was Freezing though. ❄️🥶

Our Ham Radio Club provides communications for the event and it's always wonderful to be there.

Here are some pictures of some of our Ham Radio Operators (we had 16 supporting the event) and some of the beautiful sites within the park.

I (Barb WZ4BRB) was in England during the event.





RATS (Richmond Area Telegraphic Society) IS Back!

Thank You, RATS Members!

It's a new era for RATS, and we couldn't have done it without the support of our members. Our club is growing, we're doing new things, and participation is at one of the highest levels we've seen in many years. Membership is up compared to the same time last year, and **over 28% of RATS members are now involved in one of our committees, work groups, special projects, or on the Board of Directors!** The members of our Elmer team and DMR Codeplug project have helped countless hams in the area with elmering and technical advice. Our Public Service Committee now organizes ham support for some of the largest events in our area. We've overhauled our meetings to focus more on the fun stuff our members want to see and less club business talk. And now, we've got a dedicated group organizing fun club activities and educational opportunities with our new Activities Committee. We're thankful for the time, dedication, and financial support of our members and others in the community. Because of you, the future is bright at RATS. Thank you!

Richmond Amateur Radio Club





Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club at the Military Aviation Museum's

Plane, Trains, and Santa Claus

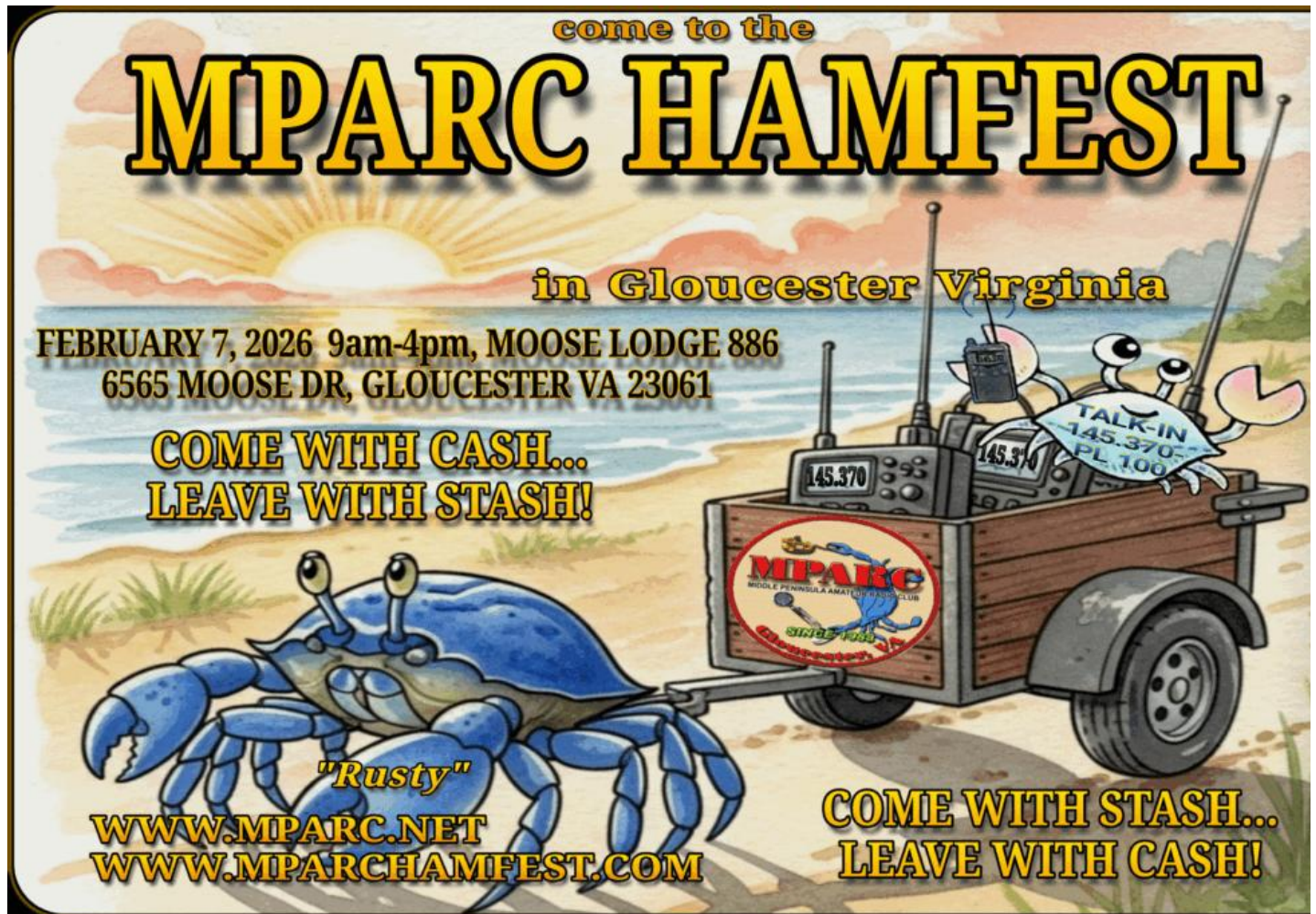
Pics from Trains, Planes & Santa 2025

By Bev Fox Karangelen



Middle Peninsula Amateur Club

Come One, Come All!



come to the

MPARC HAMFEST

in Gloucester Virginia

FEBRUARY 7, 2026 9am-4pm, MOOSE LODGE 886
6565 MOOSE DR, GLOUCESTER VA 23061

**COME WITH CASH...
LEAVE WITH STASH!**

"Rusty"

WWW.MPARC.NET
WWW.MPARCHAMFEST.COM

**COME WITH STASH...
LEAVE WITH CASH!**

The poster features a cartoon illustration of a blue crab named "Rusty" pulling a wooden trailer. The trailer is loaded with ham radio equipment, including two radios with call signs 145.370 and 145.370 PL 100. A sign on the trailer reads "MPARC MIDDLE PENINSULA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SINCE 1988 Gloucester VA". Another crab is sitting on the trailer holding a sign that says "TALK-IN 145.370 PL 100". The background shows a beach scene with a sunset over the ocean.



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

If you or anyone you know is interested in attending an Amateur Extra Class licensing course, please pass along the following information, and feel free to publicize it with your radio club or any group you feel would benefit.

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and will run through Thursday, March 26. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. Sessions will be recorded. Those who attend should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Please publicize this with anyone that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

Thanks.

73,
Rol Anders, K3RA



Updating Information

Please update or apply for LOTW if certificate is expired. LOTW will be the ARRL's way to verify contacts during the year's ARRL 2026 "Year of the Club" activities. Please let members know.

If your club has not updated club information on the ARRL website, please do this as soon as possible

Please send me club news, questions concerning the Section, Division, or national ARRL, and any requests. I'll try to expedite this as soon as possible.





ED GIBBS KW₄GF
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