



**VIRGINIA SECTION EAST OF I-95
AMATEUR RADIO NEWS**

February, 2026

Fellow ARRL Southeastern Virginia, Richmond Area Hams, Eastern Shore, Northern Neck, Peninsula, and Middle Peninsula Operators,

Dear ARRL Club Officers and Members,

WFD was a snow blow out for most clubs. At least one club was able to have an outdoor FD, and one club had a creative alternative for WFD.

Please read up and participate in the many ARRL initiatives for the 250th Anniversary of the birth of our country. Lots of opportunities to get members involved.

The Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club had a successful Hamfest and the Virginia Wireless Society sponsors the VA State Convention on March 15th.

The Sterling Park ARC sponsors the Virginia QSO Party on March 21-22.

73,

Ed Gibbs KW4GF



Activate Your Club Call During the VA QSO Party

ARRL is encouraging all clubs to activate their Club call during 2026 in support of the ARRL WAS250 event. This is year-long event, but a great time to activate using your Club call sign would be during the VA QSO Party, 21-22 Mar 2026.

More about the VQP at: <https://www.qsl.net/sterling/uf1.htm>

Sterling Park ARC, the sponsors of the VA QSO Party are interested in knowing if you are planning to activate during the VQP. Request each club respond to the following survey regarding your plans for activating your Club during the VAQP: <https://forms.gle/kqYKw5TcPobv1Hxr7> Please respond to this survey by next Wednesday, Feb 25th.

RASON's "Sweetheart of a Deal" on February 14th.

Because of the impending storm, the Radio Amateur Society of Norfolk could not use their location on Field Day. As an alternative, the club sponsored their WFD on February 14th.



Calling

All Operators!!!! W1AW/4 Anyone?

The ARRL VA Section is still looking for W1AW/4 operators to fill in the operating schedule at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uAGeVSKTefGVofy-gpho_QbEgLAC4ljldF2GBUN7wR0/edit?usp=sharing The W1AW/4 activation in Virginia is 10-17 Mar. 2026. We have only a few signups on the spreadsheet. Please take part in this worthy venture.

The Chesapeake Amateur Service's WFD

Not to be deterred by their tent falling because of heavy wind and snow, CARS rebounded with another tent and made 500 contacts during WFD. FB!!!



Conor Black W4IPC. He had his start with the K4AMG Memorial Amateur Radio Club with Rich Siff W4BUE, Duane Ettwein, and Barry Priddy K5VIP. Conor has become quite accomplished in the ham radio world.

CARS AND WFD SATELLITE!!! FB!!!



The Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Had A Successful Hamfest!!!



VIRGINIA WIRELESS SOCIETY
ARRL VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION

The upcoming ARRL VA Section Convention is on Mar 15th at Oakton HS, in Vienna VA. The convention will be live streamed via Zoom and the link is: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82991785201?pwd=ZJp0tFWtvXQa5w0zilnBQDRorETsux.1> You should not need it, but the Meeting ID: 829 9178 5201 & Passcode: 385178. Hope to see you at the Convention, but if not, please join via Zoom.

Virginia QSO Party

State QSO Parties were my gateway to contesting. The Virginia QSO is a terrific event. The Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club sponsors the party and does a fantastic job of administering it. The VAQP is on March 21 and March 22. Details at: https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2026_VQP/2026_VQP_Main.html

With the QSO Party, an amateur radio operator can be awarded a Worked All Virginia certificate from the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club. Details are at:

[RVARC - Worked All Virginia Award](#)

Worked All Virginia Award

Sponsor: Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Object: To promote amateur radio activity within the state of Virginia, and to encourage radio contacts with Virginia amateurs.

Available to Radio Amateurs worldwide who have made 2-way amateur radio contact with at least 50 Virginia counties or Independent Cities. Contacts can be made from any QTH.

The Basic Award is attained by contacting 50 counties or Independent Cities.

Continue below:



The Golden Endorsement requires contact with all 95 counties or an Independent City bordering the county claimed. If using the Independent City to claim credit for working a county, you may use that Independent City credit for only ONE county (for example, if you work a station in Richmond, you can't claim credit for working Henrico County AND Chesterfield County).

The Virginia Presidents Endorsement requires communication with a station in each of the 95 counties (not a bordering Independent City) AND each of the Independent Cities.

All modes and amateur frequencies are eligible for use in attaining this award. No repeater, phone patch, or cross-mode QSO's allowed.

Fees: \$5.00 (U.S.) for the Basic Award to cover cost of printing and mailing. A self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) is required to get the endorsement stickers.

Applications for the Worked All Virginia (WAV) Award certificate must be submitted on the WAV Application form along with the Counties and Independent Cities record sheet showing callsign and county of station worked, date, time (UTC), band, and mode.

The WAV Award Managers reserve the right to spot check any QSO's for validity by requesting QSL cards or contacting the listed station to confirm the QSO.

Send completed forms to:

**Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club
C/O Worked All Virginia Award
PO Box 1496
College Station
Fredericksburg, VA 22402**

Forms:

Download/print the Application form and County and Cities record sheets below



NCVEC Question Pool Committee Removes Three Questions From Use

Three ARRL VEC Exam Booklets Repair Required

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Removes Three Questions from Use

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed two questions from the General Class question pool and one question from the Extra Class pool from use.

Due to recently published FCC rule changes affecting the 60 meter band (see previous [ARRL News](#) story), General Class questions G1A04 and G1C09 are no longer valid and must be removed from use on examinations. Extra Class question E4D05 must also be removed because it contains more than one correct answer. All affected questions should be removed from examinations as soon as possible.

Updated General Class question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted to the NCVEC General Class question pool web page at www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release. The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027.

Updated question pool files have also been posted to the NCVEC Extra Class question pool web page at www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release. The current Element 4 Extra question pool became effective on July 1, 2024, and it is valid through June 30, 2028.

The [ARRL VEC](#) advises the amateur radio community, and particularly Volunteer Examiners (VEs), to regularly check the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

Action Required: Repair Three ARRL VEC Exam Booklets

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) has withdrawn General Class questions G1A04 and G1C09, and Extra Class question E4D05. These withdrawals affect three ARRL VEC–issued exam booklets. VE teams must update the affected booklets, as well as any exams created or printed locally that include these questions.

Please review the required actions below for teams still using ARRL VEC–supplied printed booklets.



Affected Booklets and Required Updates:

- General Exam – Version 3-6-2023: Replace Question 2
- General Exam – Version 3-10-2023: Replace Question 13
- Extra Exam – Version 4-1-2024: Replace Question 30

Instructions for Booklet Repair:

- Do NOT discard these booklets. Patch the withdrawn questions using the official replacement text provided by ARRL VEC.
- The three patch documents (dated Feb. 2026) are available on the [Exam Booklets](#) webpage.
- Cut out the replacement question and affix it over the original using tape or glue. The replacement will fully cover the withdrawn question.
- Answer positions remain unchanged, so grading templates and answer keys will continue to align properly.

For Teams Printing Their Own Exams in the Field:

You must either --

- Print new exams, or
- Replace the questions on affected exams.

If replacing the question, ensure the correct answer position matches the original answer key to maintain grading accuracy.

Thank you for your attention to this update and for your continued service.

ARRL VEC Team

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<https://www.arrl.org/america250-was>

W1AW/Portal on the Air: Listed below are the states operating as W1AW/P through March 11th.

01/14/2026	West Virginia	W1AW/8
01/14/2026	Louisiana	W1AW/5
01/14/2026	South Carolina	W1AW/4
01/21/2026	Illinois	W1AW/9
01/28/2026	Maine	W1AW/1
01/28/2026	Utah	W1AW/7
02/04/2026	Alabama	W1AW/4
02/04/2026	Indiana	W1AW/9
02/04/2026	Vermont	W1AW/1
02/04/2026	Kansas	W1AW/0
02/11/2026	Massachusetts	W1AW/1
02/11/2026	Florida	W1AW/4
02/18/2026	Texas	W1AW/5
02/18/2026	Michigan	W1AW/8
02/25/2026	Arizona	W1AW/7
02/25/2026	Georgia	W1AW/4
03/04/2026	No activations	
03/11/2026	Virginia	W1AW/4



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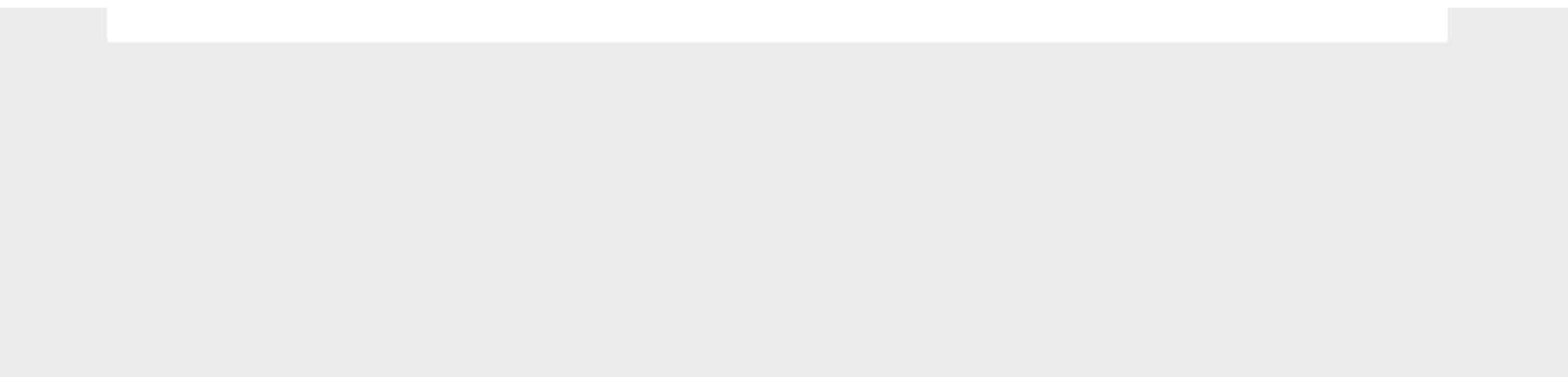
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