



## EAST OF I-95 AMATEUR RADIO NEWS

April ,2026

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

Dear ARRL Club Officers and Members,

I hope you've enjoyed Spring coming upon us. As I sit here in VA Beach, the temperatures are reaching 80 degrees and the skies are blue. Why am I typing this and not activating POTA? Well, hopefully there will be more days like today.

Even though the bands were not ideal, the Virginia QSO Party created a very busy 40m with other bands coming in at different times. I hope some of you were able to participate in the QSO Party.

Our new Section Manager, Mike Aimone WA8AHZ, began his term on April 1 and has reappointed some familiar faces while appointing some new ones. I will publish a list of the new appointees in the newsletter.

73,  
Ed Gibbs KW4GF

**Section Manager Mike  
Aimone's first newsletter as SM:**

From: ARRL Members Only Web site <[memberlist@arrl.org](mailto:memberlist@arrl.org)>

Date: Wed, Apr 1, 2026 at 8:39 AM  
Subject: April Section Manager Newsletter  
To: <[scott.smith.venice@gmail.com](mailto:scott.smith.venice@gmail.com)>

To all Virginia ARRL Members:

I am honored to be your Section Manager.

Our transition started with a series of listening sessions to understand what is on your minds. First with the ARES community, and then with a number of radio club presidents. More listening sessions will be scheduled in the coming months – including with rank-and-file ARRL members.

It is easy to reach out to ARRL members belonging to any one of the 72 ARRL affiliated clubs in the Commonwealth. It is much harder to reach out to those of you who are non-affiliated with a club. We are working hard to reach every ARRL member through this monthly newsletter, and direct mail. As such, I've asked Gene, K4EWR to be our ombudsman for this outreach initiative.

As many of you know, Virginia has had its share of natural disasters. Ensuring our ARES team is ready to support and recognized as a full partner in the Commonwealth's Emergency Management community is imperative. As such, I have appointed Terry, KA8TNF to be our Section Emergency Coordinator, and elevated the SEC position as an Assistant Section Manager.

Further, I have asked Ed, KW4GF to continue serving the Section as our senior ASM, with a portfolio focused on teacher engagement in Amateur Radio.

In the coming weeks I will appoint a number of additional members to the SM team. If you are interested in volunteering to serve, contact me please.

April 18th is World Amateur Radio Day (WARD), and we hope you will celebrate the day by making at least one contact –via RF or other communication mode such as an eye-ball QSO with a neighbor-Ham and let them know about WARD! To find neighbor-Hams, go to <https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map>. You may be surprised who lives in the neighborhood!

The ARRL Field Day is just around the corner. June 27-28 at a location near you. Block the date and join a FD activity or create your own event. Update the ARRL Find a Field Day location website at <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> with your location. Finally, reach out to a local school and invite a STEM-related teacher to your Field Day GOTA activity.

Please email me any time if you wish to talk or have a question; contact information below.

Mike

Michael Aimone, WA8AHZ  
Section Manager  
Serving ARRL Members in Virginia  
Email: [WA8AHZ@arrl.org](mailto:WA8AHZ@arrl.org)  
Website: [www.ARRLVA.com](http://www.ARRLVA.com)

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ARRL Virginia Section  
Section Manager: Michael A Aimone, WA8A

## Ham Radio To and On the Moon- Coming Soon ?

[AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS ON MOON  
MISSION ABOARD ARTEMIS 2 — Amateur Radio Newsline](#)


### **Speaking of Space- ARISS News**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Message to US Educators*  
Amateur Radio on the International Space Station  
Contact Opportunity

*Call for Proposals: New Proposal Window is April 6th, 2026 – May 22nd, 2026*

March 31, 2026 -- The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program is seeking formal and informal education institutions and organizations,



individually or working together, to host an Amateur Radio contact with a crew member on board the ISS. ARISS anticipates that the contact would be held between **January 1, 2027** and **June 30, 2026**. Crew scheduling and ISS orbits will determine the exact contact dates. To maximize these radio contact opportunities, ARISS is looking for organizations that will draw large numbers of participants and integrate the contact into a well-developed education plan.

**The deadline to submit a proposal is May 22, 2026, 11:59 PM Pacific Time.** Proposal information and necessary details are in <https://ariss-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Current-US-Proposal-Form.docx>. An ARISS Introductory Webinar session will be held April 30 at 8 PM ET. A **Zoom link to sign up is:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/3yid9dxzRkmYfVroIP0nWA>

### The Opportunity

Crew members aboard the International Space Station will participate in scheduled Amateur Radio contacts. These radio contacts are approximately 10 minutes in length and allow students to interact with the astronauts through a question-and-answer session.


An ARISS contact is a voice-only communication opportunity via Amateur Radio between astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the space station and classrooms and communities. ARISS contacts afford education audiences the opportunity to learn firsthand from astronauts what it is like to live and work in space and to learn about space research conducted on the ISS. Students also will have an opportunity to learn about satellite communication, wireless technology, and radio science. Because of the nature of human spaceflight and the complexity of scheduling activities aboard the ISS, organizations must demonstrate flexibility to accommodate changes in dates and times of the radio contact.

Amateur Radio organizations around the world with the support of NASA and space agencies in Russia, Canada, Japan and Europe present educational organizations with this opportunity. The ham radio organizations' volunteer efforts provide the equipment and operational support to enable communication between crew on the ISS and students around the world using Amateur Radio.

Please direct any questions to [education@ariss-usa.org](mailto:education@ariss-usa.org).

### **About ARISS:**

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the



International Space Station (ISS). In the United States, sponsors are the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT), NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN) and the ISS National Lab—Space Station Explorers. The primary goal of ARISS is to promote exploration of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics topics. ARISS does this by organizing scheduled contacts via amateur radio between crew members aboard the ISS and students. Before and during these radio contacts, students, educators, parents, and communities take part in hands-on learning activities tied to space, space technologies, and amateur radio. For more information, see <http://www.ariss.org>.

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## RASON's (Radio Amateur Society Of Norfolk) Contribution to Education

## Homeschool Plus

Ingleside Baptist Church  
925 Ingleside Road  
Norfolk, VA 23502  
Phone: (757) 466-3477 (HOME-HSP)  
EMAIL: OFFICE@HOMESCHOOLPLUS.ORG

## Donation Acknowledgement Letter



Radio Amateur Society of Norfolk (RASON)  
C/O Richard Davis W4NMH, President  
P.O. Box 14065  
Norfolk, VA 23518-0065

RASON,

As you know, Brain Bridges, The Academy and Homeschool Plus Enrichment are education ministries under Ingleside Baptist Church, which is a registered 501(c)(3) as Ingleside International Inc. This ministry has served the local Hampton Roads community for over 35 consecutive years from 925 Ingleside Road in Norfolk, VA.

Our operating budget historically exceeds contributions, which is why we are extremely grateful when donations are made. Your donation has supported our efforts to educate students and to help us prepare them mentally and spiritually for the workforce or off to college as a well prepared and rounded citizen who represents the finest of Hampton Roads.

We here at Home School Plus want to thank you for the phone installation in our facility. This letter is to acknowledge that you have donated the equivalent of **\$5000.00** to our program. We want to thank you. Our tax ID# is **54-0762648**. Our Non-Profit ID# is **81-2071579**. Your gift will go a long way to ensuring that our faculty, staff, and students receive the best education process that we can provide.

This letter reflects our records of the tax-deductible donations that you made to us during the taxable year of **2025**.

Sincerely,

Robert Cullipher  
Financial Manager – HSP & Ingleside Church

FROM THE ARRL Weekly Letter:

## Growing an Army of Young Hams in New York

A high school teacher in New York City, with help from the [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology \(TI\)](#), has successfully licensed nearly 700 students in the past two years as part of a wide-ranging program that is teaching students in two schools that radio today is a central part of just about everything! On March 12, ARRL Director of Education and Learning Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, and Hudson Division Director Ed Wilson, N2XDD, traveled to [Staten Island Technical High School](#) to help lead teacher Everton Henriques, KD2ZZT, administer license exams to 143 students, resulting in 131 new hams and 14 upgrades. According to Goodgame, Henriques's formula for success is "getting kids engaged, with lots of hands-on stuff." He says everything is project-based and there is lots of crossover to the school's robotics program. "Now," adds Goodgame, "he's working with a teacher at the adjacent McKee High School.

**CARS**  
**(Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service) and POTA**  
**on the Outer Banks (OBX)**

[Facebook](#) ( Right Click-Open Hyperlink)



Rich Balas, W2RB, mentors a McKee High School student as he makes his first HF contact. [Photo by Steve Goodgame, K5ATA]



**The Section Manager's Strategic Plan  
for ARRL Virginia Section**




**ARRL**  
The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**

## Section Manager

- Build an engaged SM Team and fill vacant volunteer
- Establish comms with ARRL members who don't belong
- Grow Club & ARRL membership, especially with new
- Maintain strong relationships at VA Dept of EM and
- Continue to build the VA ARES program such that C what capabilities are available with ARES involvement organizations
- Better coordinate ARES and Section Traffic Manager the new developments of digital traffic and speeds
- Enhance relationships between Scouting and VA A
- Host VA teachers at Field Day and other events; promote ARRL Teachers' Institute

OPT-In for Section Manager Newsletters: Let club members know

Request the Club leadership mention to their members to "opt-in" to subscribing

The background of the top section is a blue graphic with the letters 'ARRL' and 'ABY' visible in a stylized font.

to the ARRL Division and Section Manager Newsletters. Only 57% of ARRL members across the Commonwealth receive the monthly Section Manager

newsletter. To opt in, members are requested to sign into the ARRL.org website and click on your name just above the Log in button. Once at the My Account webpage, under Communications on the left-hand side of the webpage click on E-Newsletters and Notifications. Press Edit in the upper right side of the Opt In/Opt Out page and click Division and Section News. Don't forget to press Save at the bottom of the edited page to save your change.

### **ARRL Hosts Successful HamSCI 2026 Workshop**

The worlds of amateur radio and ionospheric science came together once again on March 14 and 15 at the 9th annual HamSCI Workshop. [HamSCI 2026](#) was hosted by ARRL and held at Central Connecticut State University, just minutes away from ARRL Headquarters in Newington.



**HamSCI** – the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation program – encourages radio amateurs to collect data that scientists use in their research on ionospheric phenomena. This year’s workshop featured 17 oral presentations, 3 tutorials, 5 demonstrations, and 31 posters, and drew researchers from MIT, Virginia Tech, Saint Francis University, Dartmouth College, Boston College, and others.

[Click to Watch the HamSCI 2026 Video Recap \(YouTube\)](#)



Participants toured ARRL Headquarters, including W1AW, where many had an opportunity to get on the air using the world's most famous call sign.

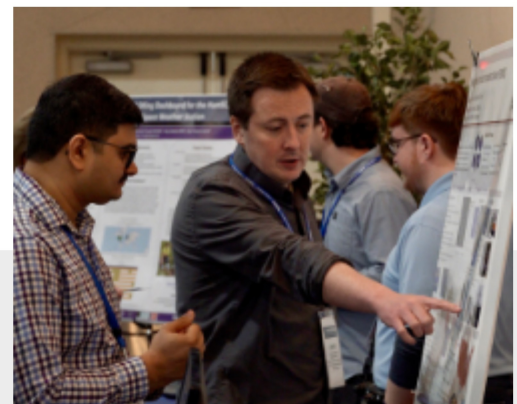


ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, welcomed participants to the workshop.

The workshop opened with Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, lead organizer of the HamSCI community, who set the stage for the weekend's activities, followed by ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, who welcomed the participants. Minster recognized the HamSCI community for its notable contributions to amateur radio. The keynote speaker at Saturday evening's banquet was NASA astrophysicist and Citizen Science Officer Dr. Marc Kuchner. The workshop also included a field trip to tour ARRL Headquarters, and attendees were invited to participate in late-night operating from the iconic W1AW station.

One overriding theme of the conference was that you don't need to be a scientist to contribute valuable data. HamSCI's basic Personal Space Weather Station, which costs around \$100, can observe space weather effects both as a single-point measurement and as part of a larger distributed network. The group has made data collection fun, with such activities as the Solar Eclipse QSO Party and Meteor Scatter QSO Party. One presentation demonstrated how ham observations and measurements captured ionospheric effects during three recent solar eclipses.

At Sunday morning's poster session, University of Scranton student Owen Ruzanski, KD3ALD, described a project to develop a dashboard for HF contesting, DXing, and general operations using data from the Personal Space Weather Station and other remote sources. The project is intended to



A poster session was held on Sunday morning of the workshop.

enhance the real-time propagation assessments sought by amateur radio operators.

For many participants, the chance to operate from W1AW was a highlight of the weekend. ARRL Senior Director of Marketing and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, described the atmosphere at the station as “energetic.” All six guest operating positions were occupied until closing time at 11:30 PM Saturday. Participants were treated to a first-ever 630-meter contact from W1AW, a contact with the J51A DXpedition to Guinea-Bissau, and a QSO between W1AW and a remotely-controlled station in Bonaire, operated by Inderbitzen as PJ4/NQ1R with both control operators in the same room! The roughly 35 visiting operators had a chance to use equipment from multiple manufacturers, notably Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood and FlexRadio. Ryusuke Takata, JI1VHV, who had traveled from Japan to attend the workshop, made 46 contacts in 20 minutes! Each visitor left with a personalized certificate, and several considered it a once-in-a-lifetime experience.


[Click to View the HamSCI 2026 Photo Album \(Google Photo Album\)](#)



ARRL extends its thanks to many partners supporting HamSCI 2026 including The University of Scranton, New Jersey Institute of Technology, the National Science Foundation, NASA, Amateur Radio Digital Communications, and others.

THE

GET READY FOR



# SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL HAM RADIO FEST AND SWAP MEET

August 8, 2026

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

12742 NETTLES DR

NEWPORT NEWS VA

Lat: 37° 08865' N Lon: 76° 49548' W

HYPERLINK TO:

[SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL HAM RADIO FEST AND SWAP  
MEET – Come find that special item you been looking for!](#)

Other Virginia

Hamfests soon:

April 11<sup>th</sup>= Thawfest, Greene County Amateur  
Radio Club, 8-11:30 AM, Madison County High School,  
68 Mountaineer Lane,  
Madison, VA,22727- Parking Lot near the Football Stadium

[Thawfest Flyer | GCVARC  
- Greene County Virginia Amateur Radio Club - K4BRW](#)



# INDOOR HAMFEST & TAILGATE EVEN

**Saturday, June 20th, 2026**

[Charles J. Colgan Sr. High School](#)

13833 Dumfries Rd, Manassas VA 20112

Colgan is a state-of-the-art High School in Prince William County that was opened in 2016, we will be using doors #33 and #34

Please watch for signage at the school

**GENERAL  
ADMISSION  
DOORS OPEN AT 8  
AM  
\$10.00 PER PERSON**

**INSIDE VENDORS  
DOORS OPEN AT 7 AM  
\$25 PER TABLE  
INCLUDES 1 SIX FOOT  
ROUND TABLE, 1 CHAIR  
& 1 ADMISSION TICKET  
ADDITIONAL TABLES  
\$20 PER TABLE**

**TAILGATE  
SET UP AT 7 AM  
\$15 PER PARKING  
SPACE  
DOES NOT INCLUDE  
ANY**

**VA QSO  
PARTY  
AWARDS**

**ARRL  
TABLE**

**DOORS CLOSE  
AT 12:30 PM**



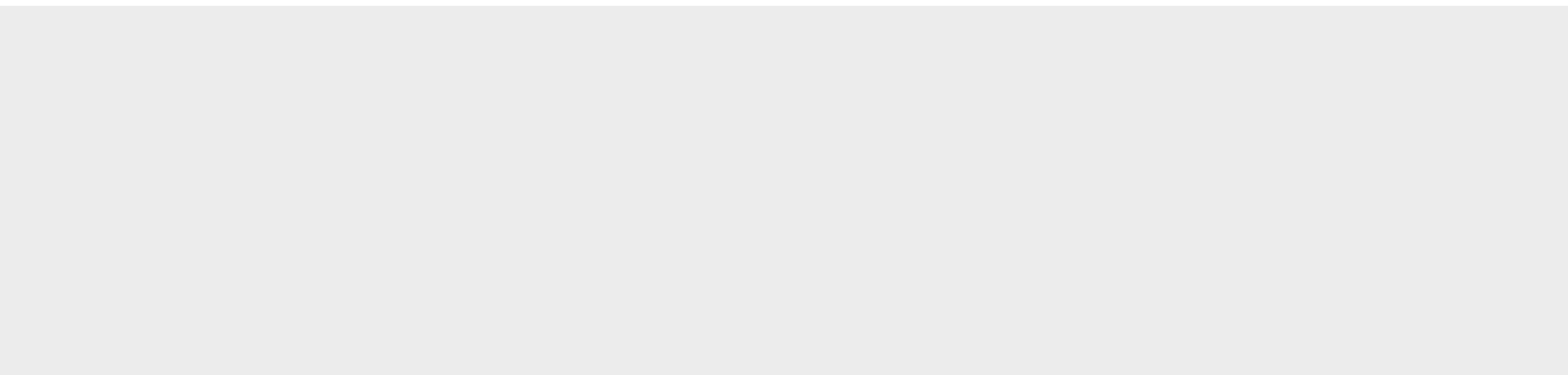


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*ED GIBBS KW<sub>4</sub>GF*  
*Assistant Section Manager*  
*KW<sub>4</sub>GF@ARRL.NET*