

# East of Virginia I-95 Amateur Radio News

May, 2026

Dear ARRL Club Officers and Members,

Field Day is coming soon and clubs around our area are getting their planning done! It's exciting as amateur radio and the ARRL are definitely national resource.

Speaking of resources, do you know of K-12 teachers, public or private school, who love teaching STEM activities in their classrooms? How about free professional development courtesy of the ARRL? The Teacher Institute on Wireless Technology has been totally successful and as of now, only two (2) teachers from Virginia have taken on this worthy adventure. If interested, visit [www.ARRL.org/ti](http://www.ARRL.org/ti) for more information. Also, please send me the contact information for any teachers who may be interested. As a retired teacher of 40 years with the Virginia Beach City Public Schools, I would enjoy talking with any teacher interested as we engage in "shop talk." Bring them on!

73,

Ed KW4GF

Assistant Section Manager,

ARRL VA Section

**From Mike Aimone WA8AHZ, Section Manager**

There is something to be said about the old adage, contributed to Reverend W. J. Kennedy, Inspector of Schools for Lancashire and the Isle of Man, which stated "**if you want any business done for you, you**

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should ask a busy man to do it, and not a man of leisure” Looking for a few busy people to volunteer to fill the Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC) and the Section Traffic Manager (STM) jobs. Please contact [WA8AHZ@arrl.org](mailto:WA8AHZ@arrl.org) if you have someone interested in volunteering for a statewide volunteer job.

**SM (with as assist from his Assistant) Listening Tour: I am making the rounds east of I-95 to clubs in what our Section Manager is calling a “listening Tour”. If you’d like me to stop by your club (in person) for a presentation/chat, just send me an email and we’ll work you into the calendar. Speaking of a calendar, our Section Calendar is published at: <https://www.arrlva.com/calendar.php>**

**Youth Hams in Virginia: Many of the clubs have Youth members, and we’d like you to ask them to contact the Section Youth Coordinator, Keith Oliver, KZ4DQ Ask your youth to join the VA Section Youth Hams Discord group at [xhttps://discord.gg/cM7a5Bajn](https://discord.gg/cM7a5Bajn) Speaking of our youth, consider incorporating them into a role in the Field Day GOTA tent. They would make great mentors for those visiting the GOTA tent. Also, we ask you to reach out to the scout troops in our area and invite the Scouts to Field Day. Don’t forget that there is an ARRL Kids Day operating event on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> .. the weekend before Field Day. More at: <https://www.arrl.org/kids-day> Plan ahead, the next Jamboree on the Air operating event is 16-18, 2026. Over 2m scouts from around the world will be on the air!. <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/>**

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**Speaking of Field Day**, just 14 clubs have registered w/ the ARRL find a Field Day location website. As you get organized for FD, be sure to add your club to the list participating in the largest QSO party in the Camous. BTWs, the site to register your club as a FD site is . <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>

## From the ARRL ARES Newsletter

Many Emergency Coordinators and emergency managers find that writing and executing a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is a daunting undertaking. The ARRL West Central Florida Section is fortunate to have Chuck Johnston, W4CWJ, who has written several SETs and participated in emergency communications activities in Florida and other states. Recently, an SET scenario consisted of a cascading power outage throughout the State of Florida, resulting in the loss of all primary, alternate, and contingency communications capabilities. Under the scenario, our 10 counties and several volunteer organizations assisting in disasters (VOADs) participated. For added interest, the theme of the SET was not announced until the night before.

Dark Start was written to accomplish several section goals. Initially, we needed to validate the MOU between the ARRL West Central Florida Section and the owners of the multi-county NI4CE repeater system. This agreement allows us to communicate with all ten counties in the West Central Florida (WCF) Section. All counties can send and receive transmissions directly from an Area Command center. This not only facilitates information arriving in a timely manner, it avoids relaying information and possible miscommunications.

Our SET scenario involved a cascading blackout caused by a fire at a transformer station. The NI4CE system executed a roll-call for all counties. Each county then returned to their own county system to activate their ARES group, and report back to the Area Command Center using the NI4CE system. Each

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county was tasked with reporting the number of individuals participating, how many could operate on emergency power and how many were willing to deploy. Although it was a simple drill, it was very effective in pointing out areas that needed fortification before an emergency arose.

Our second goal, since emergencies are not regular occurrences and many ARES groups seldom experience emergency activation, was to provide ARES members with needed training and review to keep skills and procedures already learned fresh. SETs also introduce new members to the ARES environment. This SET was simple to create and execute while reviewing valuable lessons of importance and possibly lifesaving knowledge.

Another objective was building familiarity and expertise between ARES groups and key management positions during emergency conditions. During the SET several of our Section's ECs gathered at the Desoto County Emergency Operations Center and formed the Peace River Coordinating Group. The group included several Emergency Management directors and VOAD members who joined to observe the exercise.

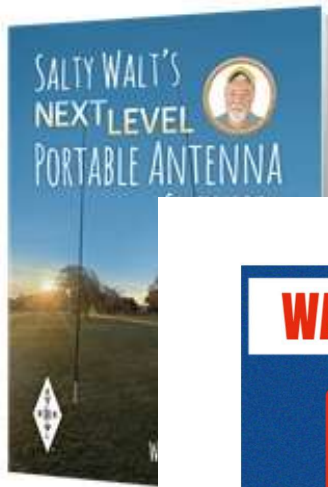
During a hot wash immediately following the SET, several members expressed concerns about ham speak: many from the coordinating group advocated instead for plain-talk. ECs and other ARES leaders were asked for plans and protocols for contacting ARES groups for sudden activation. Another question arose about communications with CERT groups: many use GMRS radios. How they can be used to a greater extent in emergencies was a topic of discussion.

The aim of any SET is to practice emergency procedures and test operators and equipment. All west central Florida counties took part and reported their members were excited to participate. Many of the problems discovered have already been addressed and corrected. Those who participated in the Peace River Coordinating Group were very pleased with the exercise. Seeing how ARES works and what benefits it can bring them during emergencies gave the group new appreciation for ARES and how it can be a valuable part of the emergency team on those "dark sky days." --Christine Duez, K4KJN, EC, Polk County, Florida.

**CARS Gets Ready for Field Day, 2026**

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**SALTY WALT'S NEXT LEVEL PORTABLE ANTENNA**

**SKETCHBOOK**

ISBN: 978-1-62595-237-0

next level  
This  
s to  
concepts  
help you

**WAARC** **K4RC.Net**



**★ 2026 ARRL FIELD DAY ★**

**AMATEUR RADIO FD 26**  
A NATIONAL RESOURCE

**PARTICIPATE IN YOUR LOCAL ARRL FIELD DAY**  
JUNE 27-28

Be a part of the **most popular on-the-air operating event** in amateur radio. Join your local community and get in on the action!  
[www.arrl.org/FieldDay](http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay)

**Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club  
WAARC  
Field Day 2026  
June 27 & 28  
2:00 pm Sat-2:00 pm Sun  
Little Creek Reservoir  
180 Lakeview Drive  
Toano, VA 23168**

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Western Tidewater Radio Association's FD Logo

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## Results of Eastern Shore ARC's VE Session!

"

"So happy to report our ARRL VE team came together and our candidate Gregory Wehner successfully passed his technician test. Greg is the son of Doug Wehner K4IHY a K4BW club member." From the Eastern Shore ARC FB Page

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## Online Class Anyone?

### Memorial Day Weekend Ham Radio License Class!

ONLINE (via Zoom) - Covers **TECHNICIAN** license and a little more - and It's **FREE!**

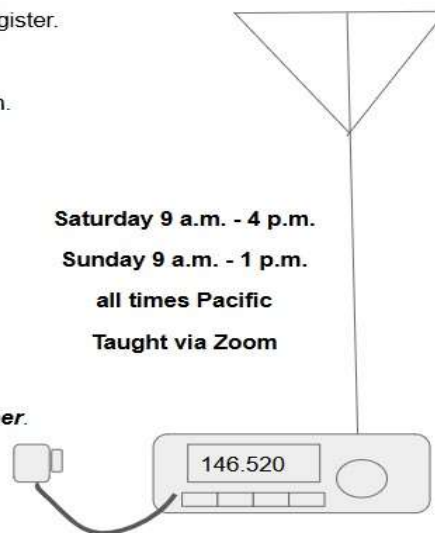
May 23-24, 2026 (Saturday-Sunday)

- The class and materials are **FREE**, but you **MUST** register.
- Open to **all** ages (kids and adults alike).
- Learn new skills, serve your community, and have fun.
- For students, this is a great way to...
  - ...earn radio-based scholarships...
  - ...develop hands-on skills...
  - ...explore real-world science.

#### Contact:

- Scott Rosenfeld, N7JI, ARRL Registered Instructor
- Please EMAIL your **name, e-mail, and phone number**.
- Email: [ars.n7ji@gmail.com](mailto:ars.n7ji@gmail.com)

Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
all times Pacific  
Taught via Zoom



# East of Virginia I-95 Amateur Radio News

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TRCI

## Southeastern Virginia Regional Ham Radio Fest & Swap Meet

Centrally Located at the Knights of Columbus Hall

★ 12742 Nettles Dr, **Newport News**, VA 23606



Affiliated

**Repeater Talk-In:**  
146.73 (100 Hz)

Scan Here for



More Information



**Date:** Saturday,  
August 8, 2026

**Time:** 9am-3pm

**Hall Entry Fee:**

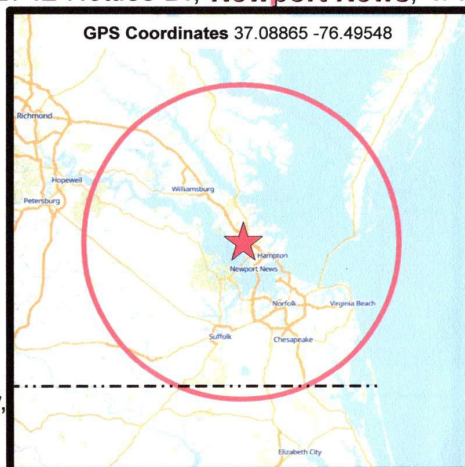
Buy \$10 Tickets  
at the Door, the  
TRCI Website, or  
by the US Mail

**Tailgating 8am:**

\$5 per vehicle

**\*Club Special\*:**

Buy 10 tickets early,  
and get a **FREE**  
club table.



• <b>ARRL VEC Licensing Exams</b> [8 to 11 AM]	• <b>On-site Food Vendor</b> [at rear of the exhibit hall]
• <b>Free Electricity</b> [around perimeter of the hall]	• <b>Restaurants &amp; Lodging Nearby</b>
• <b>Load In:</b> FRIDAY Noon to 5 PM & SATURDAY 6 AM	• <b>Ham Radio &amp; Tech Forums</b> [Noon to 3 PM]
• <b>Ham Radio Related Demonstrations</b>	• <b>Learn about Local Radio Clubs</b>

**\$25/Table & \$10/Entry Ticket Order Form:** [For Individuals, Vendors and \*Clubs\*]

Name/Organization/Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Call-sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information [email, telephone, etc.]: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Club Special\*** : Y or N (circle)

Item types I (we), will be selling: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Enclosed** [Sum of Tables and Tickets purchased using this form]: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check & form to Carl Clements – W4CAC, 4500 Wake Forest Rd - Portsmouth VA, 23703

Make all **CHECKS** payable to **TRCI**. Go to our website to use **PAYPAL** - [www.trcihamfest.com](http://www.trcihamfest.com).

**Inquiries to :**

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**Assistant Section Manager**

**ARRL VA Section**

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**Phone: (757)274-5793**