

East of VA I-95 Amateur Radio News

August 2026

A RECENT SUCCESS

Clubs in Virginia have been receptive to communicating with ARRL VA Section officers to

better organize the ARRL Virginia Section.

Keep in touch!

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

Assistant Section Manager

ARRL VA Section

Email: beachteach15 at yahoo.com

DEAR EAST OF I-95 CLUB OFFICERS AND CLUB MEMBERS,

The Southeastern Virginia Hamfest and Swap Meet was very successful. An estimated five hundred (500) attended and all had a great time. The Hamfest was wonderfully organized and hat's off to the organizers of the Hamfest. There were lots of vendors and information tables available. Most of the clubs in the area were represented. The forums were interesting from what I've heard as I was busy at the ARRL VA Section table. I can say the same for Terry KA8TNF Section Emergency Coordinator and George Stone WA1JQC. Even the QSL checker, Don Lynch W4ZYT, had a few applications.



Tap here to add a caption

Thanks to all and we're looking forward to another great Hamfest next year.

73,

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

Assistant Section

Section Manager's Newsletter

**To all Virginia ARRL Members
Subject: September 2026 Section Newsletter**

You may hear, on the air this month, two different national Emergency Communication exercises. Unless specifically engaged in the exercise, please just listen along. That said, if you are interested in participating as an active member of the exercises, reach out to the point of contact listed below.

Obsidian Wave: The National Traffic System 2.0 Digital Committee is preparing to hold the first a series of national exercise on Saturday, September 19 between noon – 2 pm ET. The testing will exercise the following components:

- country-wide HF transmission of a command message
- submitting status messages by participating stations, and
- transmission of health and welfare messages following the “I Am Safe” protocol.
- The exercise is based on the real-world impact of the April 2025 loss of *both* communications and electrical power systems across large segments of Spain and Portugal. Contact George Stone, WA1JQC STM, wa1jqc@arrl.org for more information.

Simulated Emergency Test (SET): While the annual ARES SET is planned for early October, many ARES Groups and state and local

Emergency Coordinators will test their operational capability this month. Each organization can establish their own scenarios, and partner with local Emergency organizations such as:

- o SKYWARN,**
- o American Red Cross, and**
- o Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).**

Contact Terry Buzzard, KA8TNF, SEC at ka8tnf@verizon.net for more information.

The CERT program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. Sponsored nationally by FEMA, and locally by public safety or emergency management agencies, the goal is to train and organize volunteers so professional responders can rely on a cadre of volunteers during disaster situations. CERT volunteers allow the professional responders to focus on more complex tasks.

Amateur Radio Operators are key members of many CERT Programs across the country in every state and territory. CERT- trained amateur radio operators provide added value because they understand emergency response at the local level and have the communications skills and resources to respond safely and effectively during disasters. For more information about CERT

see: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/preparedness-activities-webinars/community-emergency-response-team>

Looking for volunteers to operate their home station as W1AW/4 during our week working the American250 event in early November. Sign up at the following site:

Finally, please take the time to review the Section's 2026-2028 Strategic Plan. How can you help implement elements of the plan? See: <https://www.arrlva.com/strategicplan.php>

73,

Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ

Check out the VA NTS with George Stone WA1JQC, Section NTS Manager

One of the easiest ways to help is to check in regularly to Virginia's voice and CW traffic nets. Regular check-ins build confidence with directed-net procedures, radiogram format, accurate copying, and message delivery. Our daily traffic nets are:

- .Virginia Sideband Net – 3947 kHz – 6 pm**
- .Virginia Net (CW) – 3553 kHz – 7 pm**
- .Northern Virginia Traffic Net on the Bluemont repeater – 147,300 (+) - 7:30 pm**

We need to fill gaps in our statewide coverage and “last mile” delivery, especially for radiograms destined for Northern Virginia and the Tidewater area.

Additional help is needed to bridge digital and on-air operations. Operators who can retrieve Virginia-bound messages from the Digital Traffic Network and relay them into the appropriate voice or CW traffic net provide a vital connection between store-and-forward systems and local delivery. This service helps prevent messages from waiting unnecessarily and expands opportunities for hams who are comfortable with both digital tools and the voice and CW nets.

We also need volunteers willing to serve in key operating roles. Net Control Stations keep each session orderly and direct the efficient exchange of traffic. Net liaison stations connect local, section, region, and area nets so messages continue moving through the system. Official Relay Stations provide dependable, skilled participation, help deliver traffic, and model sound operating practices for others. These roles can be learned gradually with support from experienced operators, and even a modest, regular commitment can strengthen coverage across the Commonwealth.

Clubs can make a meaningful difference by featuring traffic-net participation in meetings, newsletters, on websites, and by inviting a

traffic handler to provide training, and encouraging members to originate and deliver practice messages.

Please ask your members to give traffic handling a try and to consider taking on one of these roles. Clubs that identify interested volunteers or would like assistance with an introductory program, net procedures, radiogram handling, or digital liaison work are encouraged to contact our STM, George Stone, wa1jqc@arrl.org. With consistent participation from clubs throughout Virginia, we can maintain a reliable, well-practiced system that serves amateur radio and our communities when it is needed most.

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Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ

Section Manager Virginia

PICS FROM RICK ROSS KG4TAX





Club License Reminder

Club License Reminder

By Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VEC Manager

While amateur radio operators are generally diligent about updating and renewing their licenses, club licenses can sometimes be overlooked. It's important for clubs to periodically review their club license information to ensure everything is current.

Take a few moments to verify that your club's mailing address and trustee information are accurate in the [FCC license database](#). Also, confirm that the license is not approaching expiration.

All club license transactions (except for new vanity call sign requests) must be handled through an FCC-approved Club Station Call Sign

Administrator (CSCSA) by completing a 605-C Form (Club Station Application). This form cannot be submitted directly to the FCC, and club transactions cannot be completed through the FCC's website. The ARRL VEC is a CSCSA and can process these requests for your club.

Please refer to the appropriate [instructions and club application form](#) to help you update or renew your club license.

September Online Free Tech Class opportunity!

If you or anyone you know is interested, here is the information for our upcoming, free, live Technician Class Licensing course on Zoom. Please feel free to share the following announcement online or at your club meetings.

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Technician Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, Sept 3, and will run through Thursday, October 15 (7 sessions). The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Please publicize this with anyone you know that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email me at roland.anders@comcast.net.

We have overlapping mailing lists, so if you received a duplicate of this message, thanks for your understanding.

Thanks.

**73,
Rol Anders, K3RA**

Keeping your club license up to date helps ensure smooth operations and continued FCC compliance.

If you have questions or need help, please contact the [ARRL VEC](#) department at vec@arrl.org.

PICS FROM

RICK ROSS KG4TAX





Sign Up for W1AW/4 From Mike Aimone WA8AHZ Section Manager

All: It's time to start the "dance" for sign up for the last W1AW/4 activation in Virginia associated w/ the ARRL WAS250 event. We start at 0000 UTC on 4 Nov ...(which is Tuesday evening, Nov 3rd) ...and runs through the following Tuesday evening ... 10 Nov ... I'll need to figure out if we are staying on Daylight savings time or now ... I think we are, so we start at 8pm ...

All I need right now is if you wish to participate .. Name, call & email address.

The link

is: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MBHu7SIYThoNJVngg7AmnXs2OJ9-0feRF4Kvc-AG3rw/edit?usp=sharing>

Hamfest Pics by Rick Ross



PICS FROM Ed

KW4GF







That's all, folks. Please send me club news and pictures for inclusion in this newsletter!

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

Assistant Section Manager

ARRL Virginia Section

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