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East of VA I-95 Amateur Radio News

November 2026

A RECENT SUCCESS

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

better organize the ARRL Virgina Section.

Keep in touch!

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

Assistant Section Manager

ARRL VA Section

Email: beachteach15 at yahoo.com



Tap here to add a caption

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

We're on the downside of the solar cycle, so I hope our amateur radio operators will be patient and stay aware of the propagation reports. A downside cycle doesn't mean no communication. It simply means that we must remember that it just takes a little more time to make contacts in some cases.

I just received the sad news that a local ham that I admire is selling his QRP equipment because he has lost interest in the hobby. I'm going to call him today and try to find out what is going on and to dissuade him. Maybe he needs a break. Maybe he has other priorities. Maybe he's done all that he wants to do with the hobby. Maybe I can convince him to place his equipment in a "mothball fleet." Always can come back to it later. I'll let you know the result next month. Fingers crossed.

The Virginia Section is going to form a Speakers' Bureau. If you know of or are interested in giving a presentation to clubs even by ZOOM if needed, please contact me at beachteach15@yahoo.com or (757)274-5793 and let me know what you'd like to present. I will put you on a list that will be available to the Section via our website: https://www.arrlva.com. For example, I am listing two presentations that I can do in 2027: Our ARRL VA SECTION GOTA For Life Task Force report and the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. Please let me know if you'd like to participate.

73,

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

Assistant Section Manager

ARRL VA Section

Section Manager's Report

Subject: November 2026 Section Newsletter

First Contact! Do you remember your first QSO? Mine was with a college, and I was amazed my 75 watts homemade transmitter could reach from Michigan to Maine. Then, about a week later, I received my first QSL card in the mail from St Joseph's College. The first of many. Hopefully, you remember your first contact and savedyour first paper QSL card. If you have the opportunity for a QSO with a new Ham, take a moment to welcome them to the hobby, and drop them a QSL card in the mail!

Of course, things change and much of the QSL process has gone virtual. That said, ARRL's Outgoing QSL Service handled about 300,000 physical cards sent to their international partner organizations last year. While the aggerate number of QSL cards received from ARRL's international partners is not tracked, in the 4 Call Area, managed by the Sterling Park Club, report about 38,000 cards were processed in 2024, the least year data is available. In Virginia, many of our Hamfests include one of our ARRL approved QSL Card checkers. More about the Outgoing QSL Service: https://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service and Incoming QSL Service at: https://www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service To use our QSL Card Checkers, suggest go to the DXCC on-line application page at: https://www.arrl.org/online-dxcc-application and the list of ARRL approved checkers is at: http://arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/Card_Checkers_DXCC_2026-10-06.pdf

Engaging our Techs: Half of all Virginia Hams are Techs. A small number receive this newsletter because they are ARRL members. Sadly, most are not ARRL members. Techs who engage with mentors are more likely to hone their skills and upgrade their license. Even Techs can mentor other Techs! Most likely, our Tech's first contact is via an HT with a rubber duckie antenna, and unlikely to even reach a local repeater. If they do reach the repeater, it's likely no one responded to the call. Together we can help aTech become radio active!

Visit www.ARRLVA.com Our section website hosts important information. Consider visiting it often. The site was recently updated to read:
"ARRL Virginia is launching a new section-level training and routine traffic net in January 2027! The net will operate over the DMRVA website: https://www.dmrva.org/ and will use Virginia Statewide Talkgroup, 3151.
Access via a DMRVA repeater or hotspot. For hotspot access, see DMRVA's instructions at https://www.dmrva.org/dmrva-hotspot-network/
"Interested? Contact George Stone, WA1JQC, Virginia Section Traffic Manager, at wa1jqc@pm.me
If you don't have DMR capable gear, https://qso1.net/ is a software only solution to get you on the net.

Be a Connector, Become a Mentor

73

Mike
Michael A. Aimone, WA8AHZ
ARRL VA Section Manager



STILL Looking

For W1AW/4 operators

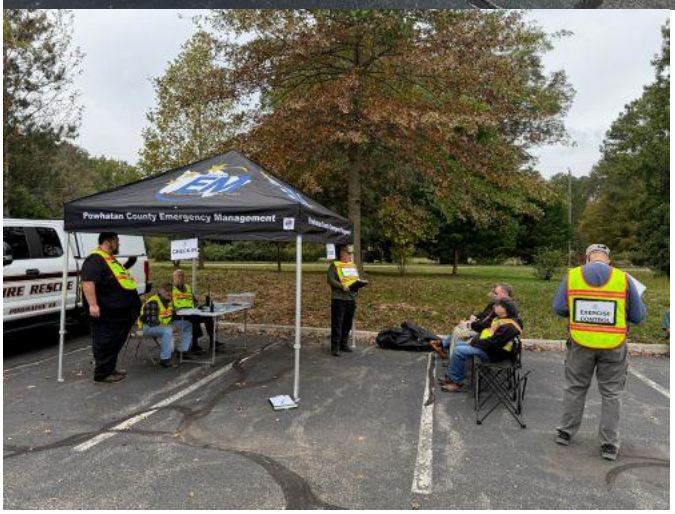
Still looking for volunteers to operate their home station as W1AW/4 during our week working the American250 event in 3-10 Nov 2026. Sign up at the following site: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MBHu7SlYThoNJVngq7AmnXs2OJ9-0feRF4Kvc-AG3rw/edit?usp=sharing

Powhatan ARES

SET Drill







#1 Mark Robinson N4MDR, AEC, inside the MSU

#3 Carl Cash KF4UBE, EC, on left; Mark Robinson N4MDR, AEC, on right, inside the MSU
#5 George Stone WA1JQC, STM, Check-In and Staging
#6 Curt Nellis KD4JLY, AEC, at the MSU
#8 Curt Nellis KD4JLY, AEC, at the MSU

#9 Mark Robinson N4MDR, AEC on left; Carl Cash KF4UBE, EC om right, inside the MSU
#10 The Powhatan ARES Mobile Support Unit
POWHATAN ARES SET

SEND ME PICS OF YOUR CLUB OR GROUP'S SET DRILL!

NEWS FROM ARRL

The Dog Day Radio Amateur Radio Club, KØDOG, is back on the air from the 1st through the 7th of November. In observance of International Dog Day in August, the club's monthlong activities were all about the rescue and responsible care of dogs. In November, operators are calling CQ for one week in recognition of the selfless work of the volunteers, rescuers, veterinarians, shelter staffers and other supporters of animals in need of loving and responsible homes. The event coincides with National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week created by the Humane Society of the US. Listen for KØDOG on the HF bands, using CW and SSB. Share your own stories as adopters, foster caregivers and rescue workers. QSL cards are available for all confirmed contacts and SWLs who send an SASE. Visit KØDOG on QRZ.com to learn how you can donate professional services, funds, clean towels and sheets, or some toys and food.

The Nashua Area Radio Society, an ARRL Affiliated Club, will be holding its next online Ham Bootcamp on Saturday November 14th from 10 AM to 6 PM Eastern time. Ham Bootcamp is an online, interactive program to help new, inactive, and prospective hams learn the skills that they need to get on the air. The morning sessions are all about VHF and the afternoon sessions focus on HF. There is no fee to attend Ham Bootcamp. Advance registration is requested. Questions may be emailed to bootcamp@n1fd.org.

Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club's Yorktown Special Event




Golden Retriever Pups
Silver Queen Corn





Great News! Get Involved! Seek those Techs who are New and Those Who Need More!

Virginia Launching DMR Traffic & Training Net in January 2027

Virginia has about 21,000 licensed hams, of which 9,200 (45%) are Technicians. Unless a Technician is CW-capable and on HF, they miss out in participating on Section-level 80-meter traffic nets. Concurrently, NTS misses out on additional capabilities that Technicians and hams who may be limited to VHF/UHF can contribute to handling radiograms. To address this situation and fill gaps in current HF net coverage, ARRL VA has partnered with DMRVA to launch a traffic and training net in January 2027. DMRVA currently links 28 DMR repeaters across Virginia and is seeking to expand its coverage. The traffic net will operate on the Virginia Statewide Talkgroup, 3151. Hams can join the net through a nearby DMRVA repeater or a hotspot. Note, however, that TG 3151 *is not* linked between Brandmeister and DMRVA.

1. ARRL VA is now recruiting volunteers to fill net positions including Net Manager, Net Control Stations, net liaison stations, NTS training presenters, and interested traffic handlers. The net schedule is under development. See ARRL VA DMR Net Info or contact the Virginia STM, George Stone, WA1JQC, at wa1jqc@arrl.net for further information. -- *George Stone, WA1JQC, Virginia Section Traffic Manager*

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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