

Greetings to Everyone,

This is the Virginia Section Manager's Report for March, 2022. The VA Section website can be found at ARRLVA.com where the report will be listed as well as up-to-the-date information on Amateur Radio in Virginia.

The annual Virginia QSO Party will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 19-20 March 2022. A lot of incredibly interesting information about this year's Party may be found at

https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2022_VQP/2022_VQP_Main.html. You should especially look at the "VQP Pre-Party Briefing." Last year we had 667 logs submitted - a long way from the 110 logs submitted at the beginning of the century in 2001. Hope to see you on the air! 73, Gordon, NQ4K

Invite new Hams to your next Club* meeting: Looking for a nifty web-app which displays Ham radio call signs on a map in your neighborhood? See: <https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map> You can zoom in to your individual neighborhood, or look at all the Hams in the surrounding 6-digit Grid Square. On inspection of the call signs on the map, you'll find some Hams you may not know. Take a moment yourself, or excite your local radio Club, as a club-activity to invite a number of Hams in the 'hood' to your next Club Meeting! *Looking for a Club to join? See: [ARRL Virginia Ham Radio Clubs \(arrlva.com\)](https://www.arrl.org/virginia-ham-radio-clubs) **Mike, WA8AHZ, ARRL VA Section Affiliated Club Coordinator**

If you are in the Tidewater area (or will be in March), Tom, WS9B, is looking for volunteers to help with the Shamrock Marathon at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. The race is on Sunday March 20th with the prerace meeting on March 17th. If you are available to help, please get in touch with Tom, WS9B@cox.net.

WINTERFEST and the ARRL VA Section Convention for 2022: As I mentioned in my last update the Hams of Vienna Wireless Society (VWS) are hosting their annual hamfest – WINTERFEST – on Sunday, March 27th at the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College starting at 8am, and it looks to be bigger and better than ever. The hamfest includes tailgating, a vendor fair with over 40 vendors and 100 tables, and some great door prizes. For the 2nd year, VWS is also hosting the Section Convention. The Section Convention is both in-person and virtual, via Zoom. Details can be found at: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/>. Advanced tickets for the in-person event are \$10 (\$15 at the door). This is a great opportunity to connect with hams from around the Commonwealth. My leadership team, including the soon to be announced new Section Manager will be present. Looking forward to meeting many of you if not in person, then via Zoom. Thanks so much and looking forward to meeting for an eyeball QSO. 73, Dean, KK4DAS, President, Vienna Wireless Society

ARRL has filed **comments** with the US Forest Service (USFS) seeking an exemption for amateur radio facilities to a proposed new \$1,400 annual administrative fee. The USFS proposal resulted from requirements in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (aka “the Farm Bill”), which directs the Forest Service to collect fees for issuing communications use authorizations based on the cost to the agency for processing the applications, maintenance, and other related activities. These fees would be in addition to annual rental and cost-recovery fees already being collected.

On February 24, the Forest Service filed a *Notice* with the *Federal Register* that the comment filing window will be re-opened on March 1 and additional comments will be accepted through March 31. Any radio amateurs missing the first comment period or wishing to add to their earlier comments are encouraged to do so during this additional period.

The Section Manager election has been completed and the votes have been counted. Jack Smith, KE4LWT, is the Section Manager Elect. He will assume office on April 1st. I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I received when I was appointed as Interim SM. I enjoyed

working with the section volunteers and ARRL members for the last three months. All the best to Jack and the section as you move forward.

73

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