

## Virginia Section of the ARRL August Section Manager's Report (Covering July)

### ++Safety Note++

We're well into hurricane season, and so far have dodged the bullet. Having said that, the key window hurricanes is the end of August through September, with severe storms going well into December. Safety of yourself and your family comes first. Have a plan for high-tailing out of town, as well as a plan for what to do if you can't for some reason.

### ++Affiliated Club Coordinator++

Mike WA8AHZ sends the following information:

As part of ARRL's Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) event, W1AW/4 is coming back to Virginia for 1 week starting October 25, 2023 0000 UTC and we want YOU to call CQ as W1AW/4 VA from your shack.

Starting August 8th, all Virginia-based amateur radio operators are invited to visit <https://vota.w4car.org> and register to become an approved W1AW/4 operator during the event. Once approved, you may select any available operating time slot (1 hour minimum) for the band and mode (SSB, CW, or Digital) of your choice. You must be an ARRL member to operate as W1AW/4 for this event.

All operators are required to log contacts using an electronic logging program capable of creating an ADIF file, may only operate as "W1AW/4 VA" during their assigned time slot, and must observe all FCC regulations including only operating on frequencies allocated to their license class and at permitted power levels. Additional event rules can be found at <https://vota.w4car.org> or on the ARRL's Volunteers on the Air website at <https://vota.arrl.org>.

The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service in Chesapeake, VA is coordinating the VOTA W1AW/4 VA 2nd Week operating schedule. If you have questions or issues with the VOTA scheduling website, please email them at [vota@w4car.org](mailto:vota@w4car.org)

The Volunteers on the Air (VOTA) operating event continues for the entire calendar year, and W1AW/4 is currently ranked #2 on the ARRL VOTA leaderboard. See: <https://vota.arrl.org/leaderboard.php> Of course, this is the culminative of all the Sections in the 4 Call area activating as W1AW/4. If you didn't activate W1AW/4 (VA) in March, you'll have another opportunity in late October.

### ++Upcoming Events++

2023 OCT 29: The Marine Corps Marathon is recruiting volunteer amateur radio operators. The Peoples' Marathon – hosted by the US Marine Corps is on Sunday, October 29, 2023. Over 23,000 runners are expected this year, and 150 Ham volunteers are needed to provide critical radio communications along the 10, 26 & 50 mile courses. Volunteer sign up is open. Go to: [www.hamcommunity.com/mcm-register](http://www.hamcommunity.com/mcm-register)

### +++Hamfests+++

08/12/2023 - Tidewater Hamfest and Swap Meet

**Location:** Portsmouth, VA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** TRCI

**Website:** <http://VirginiaBeachHamfest.com>

For more information see: <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

We currently do not have a Section Convention host, and there are currently no other hamfests or conventions in the Commonwealth. Please submit any requests for an ARRL sanctioned event, go to <http://arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events> and follow the instructions there. Remember that all of the requests go through the Section Manager and the Division Director, so allow for plenty of time for these to be reviewed. Please reach out to me if you'd like to get your club (or combination of clubs) to host the Section Convention.

+++Contest Calendar+++

Don't forget our year-long Volunteers On The Air Event

<https://vota.arrl.org>

August 2023

20 Rookie Roundup – RTTY <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

12-13 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

September 2023

9-11 September VHF <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

16-17 10 GHz & Up - Round 2 <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

9-10 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

October 2023

7-8 Collegiate QSO Party <http://www.arrl.org/collegiate-amateur-radio>

16-20 School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

28-29 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

++Get On The Air (GOTA) For Life++

The final meeting for the ARRL VA GOTA For Life Design Team will take place on Tuesday August 15, 2023, at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. The subject of this meeting will concern children and how to keep them interested once they have their licenses. After this meeting, the Design Team and others who are interested will meet in November 2023, to hear the final report of the Design Team's findings. The GOTA for Life Design Team has met quarterly since May 2022 and has listened to speakers and discussed various ways to keep amateur radio operators on the air from the time they get their tickets until they become Silent Keys. For more information, contact Ed Gibbs KW4GF, Section Assistant Manager, at [beachteach15@yahoo.com](mailto:beachteach15@yahoo.com)

++Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)++

We were asked by the Commonwealth's Statewide Interoperable Coordinator (SWIC) to recruit participants for the Information Technology Service Unit Leader (ITSL), Communications Unit Leader (COML), and to begin rattling cages for the Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC) course. The first round of ITSL classes is completed, and it looks like VA ARES has made a good showing in not just attending, but in demonstrating the professionalism and adaptability of our organization. Well done! I'm sure we'll make an equally good showing at the COML course as well.

It is training like this that shows our dedication to providing communications during incidents and disasters. We are grateful to VDEM for offering these opportunities, and I am grateful to you for stepping up.

By being trained, we demonstrate our commitment to being a reliable communicator when the need is the greatest.

+++ARES June Report+++

The ARES Monthly Report will continue to be sent out as a separate document. This goes both via the ARRL mailing list and to ARES Leadership for further distribution.

If you are an EC and do not have the current link to the report, please contact Marty KE4KEW at martinkrupinski AT comcast DOT net. The report format was changed by HQ to capture more hours better. And speaking of hours, each hour is equivalent to our partner organizations spending \$31.84 in training an operator. This increases by 8.7% on 1 October, so this is a very big deal!

+++2023 Simulated Emergency Test (SET)+++

The basic plan for the 2023 SET, with the primary dates of 8 and 9 October (can be rescheduled depending on your served agencies' needs) has been published and can be found at [https://emcommwiki.org/index.php/2023\\_Virginia\\_Simulated\\_Emergency\\_Test\\_\(SET\)\\_Plan](https://emcommwiki.org/index.php/2023_Virginia_Simulated_Emergency_Test_(SET)_Plan) Keep checking the page periodically as other information that may prove helpful will be added, however it will not affect the basic plan

+++Partner Sponsored Exercise+++

Saturday Sept. 16 - members of Fairfax County ARES will be participating in a regional Red Cross communications exercise. For more information contact Brendan KM4HRR at km4hrr AT gmail DOT com.

++Section Traffic Manager Report++

Va Section Traffic News

Station Activity Report (SAR) and Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) Reports for May, June and July

Kk4PUX – May - SAR – 36, PSHR – 215, June – SAR – 44, PSHR – 230, July – SAR – 42, PSHR – 230

N3SW – May - SAR- 91, PSHR – 90, June – SAR – 87, PSHR – 90, July – SAR – 36, PSHR - 80

W4CAC – May - SAR – 30, PSHR – 150, June – SAR – 34, PSHR -118, July – SAR – 29, PSHR - 167

Net Reports for May and June

Va Sideband Net – May - QTC – 18/4, QND-162, QNI – 147, Sessions – 29  
June – QTC – 17/5, QND – 151, QNI – 116, Sessions – 29  
July – QTC – 22/13, QND – 206, QNI – 149, Sessions - 31

VN – May - QTC-38, QND-311, QNI-130, Sessions – 26  
June – QTC – 23, QND – 247, QNI – 108, Sessions - 27

Ports ARC – May - QTC – 0, QND-70, QNI – 40, Sessions – 5  
June – QTC – 0, QND – 48, QNI – 24, Sessions – 4  
July – QTC – 0, QND – 59, QNI – 30, Sessions - 4

NVTN – May - QTC – 14/11, QND – 1132, QNI – 599, Sessions – 31  
June -QTC – 36/24, QND – 850, QNI – 451, Sessions – 29  
July – QTC – 0, QND – 809, QNI – 502, Sessions - 31

Floyd ARS – May - QTC-0, QND-84, QNI-32, Sessions – 5  
June – QTC – 0, QND -79, QND – 29, Sessions – 4  
July – QTC – 0, QND – 56, QNI – 22, Sessions - 4

The VN is a CW net and we just recently changed frequency. The VN can now be found on 3553 kHz every evening at 7 PM local time.

If you handle traffic, please send your monthly totals to me.

73, Carl, W4CAC, w4cac@cox.net

++Section Manager Close-out++

In my “real job”, I work with emergency management professionals at every level, from the local to the national, from government agencies to non-profit organizations. What they all have in common is a desire to serve the public, and to provide training and education beyond incidents and disasters. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, as well as leadership and training skills are just some of the things that they encourage. They also comment that these are skills that we amateur radio operators have and can share. Seek out those groups and individuals that may be receptive, and if you don't know exactly what to do once you've got interest, let me know and I will work with you to get the tools you need.

We need to get better at telling our story, too. Every week one of our many clubs and ARES units does something that provides tremendous value to our community, but the information isn't shared. Every week I get asked “What has amateur radio done lately?”, and while I can tell them, they ask back, “Why isn't that put out?” The answer is because I don't find out except by accident. Please pass along any and all news so that we can spread the wealth.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me.

73,

Jack KE4LWT