

Virginia Section of the ARRL January Section Manager's Report (Covering November and December)

++Affiliated Club Coordinator++

Mike WA8AHZ sends the following information:

Over 20,000 hams are licensed in the Commonwealth, and according to the FCC, half are licensed as Technicians. By one estimate, half of all hams licensed in Virginia are inactive. It is safe to say many Techs never gain sufficient operating skills and confidence to be radio active.

On the other hand, 4,000+ hams in Virginia belong to a Virginia Section ARRL Affiliated Club; the vast majority hold an Amateur Extra radio class license. Most are radio active.

Over 600 new hams were licensed in the Commonwealth in 2023. How many will fall to the wayside and become inactive?

Be a mentor and make a difference: Help a new ham get on the air, join one of the 69 radio clubs in the Commonwealth. Use the upcoming Virginia QSO Party and the ARRL North American QSO Parties to entice new hams to become more active in the hobby. To find a club near you, see: <https://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>

In closing: congrats to the Richmond Amateur Radio Club – first affiliated with the League 98 years ago!

++Section Youth Coordinator++

McKenzie KO4GLN continues her hard work pushing information out to youth groups, clubs, and any other group that she can. Also, she's been keeping information that you may find helpful posted to the ARRLofVA facebook page, and when things aren't time sensitive, forwarding for inclusion on the ARRLVA.com page. If you're in the need of things that can help you get more youth involvement, or are aware of activities, send that to McKenzie at mckenziedenton15 AT gmail DOT com

++Upcoming Events++

Rol Anders K3RA, one of our neighbors in MD, sends the following invite:

A FREE, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 18, 2024, and will run through Thursday, March 28. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. Sessions will be recorded. Those attending should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Please publicize this with anyone that

you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

Thanks, Rol!

Mike KQ9P sends the following regarding Technician Licensing Study:

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club will offer an online class to prepare applicants for the Technician Class FCC license exam. The class will be conducted via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM from 17 January 2024 through mid-March. An exam session will be scheduled shortly after the end of the course. The classes are free, but students should purchase a copy of the ARRL's Ham Radio License Manual – 5th edition, available from <https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/ProductDetails/productId/2003373064>. Persons interested in registering for the class should send an email to Hank Perritt, K9KDF, hperritt@gmail.com. The Zoom link will be provided to those who register.

Thanks, Mike!

Feel free to send any events that your club or ARES unit are supporting to KE4LWT at GMAIL dot COM

++ Get On The Air For Life (GOTA 4 Life) ++

Ed Gibbs, Assistant Section Manager, is available to present the GOTA For Life Design Team results to club officers and/or clubs via ZOOM. Ed can be reached at beachteach15@yahoo.com.

+++Hamfests+++

03/10/2024 - Winterfest - The National Capital Area Ham Radio Fair

Location: Vienna, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Vienna Wireless Society

Website: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/>

04/13/2024 - Thawfest II

Location: Ruckersville, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Greene County VA ARC

Website: <https://thawfest.net>

06/01/2024

Location: Manassas, VA

Type: Regular Hamfest

Sponsor: W4OVH Ole Virginia Hams

Website: <https://w4ovh.net/tailgate/>

08/04/2024 - SVARC Berryville Hamfest

Location: Berryville, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Website: <https://berryvillehamfest.com/>

Berryville will also be the Section Convention. More information to come on this.

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

+++Contest Calendar+++

You can download the handy reference

at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Calendar/ARRL%20Contests%20Calendar%202023-2024.pdf> or see the interactive calendar at <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

++Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)++

The Virginia Section ARES reported over 15,000 hours of training throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. That's over \$465,000 of training value that the State, Counties, Independent Cities, and volunteer partners did not have to spend. We have also had some great interactions with the Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, and are working towards developing more interactive ways to train with them.

If you would like to help with rebuilding these or other programs throughout the Commonwealth, please let me know. I can put you in contact with the correct people so that we can get more amateurs licensed, and get them active in their communities either through ARES or other community engagements.

Our Section Emergency Coordinator, Marty KE4KEW, has requested to step aside for an indefinite period. In the interim, please reach out to Jack KE4LWT.

+++ARES October 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 Jack at KE4LWT at GMAIL dot COM. 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.

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

The ARRL has made a substantial change to the SET planning and execution that recognizes that many Sections may have real-world events occurring during the Fall window, and now allows for the scheduling and execution of the SET throughout the year. The annual SET report will remain in the September QST.

+++Partner Sponsored Exercise+++

None reported at this time.

++Section Traffic Manager Report++

++ New Net(s)++

Mike KQ9P sends the following info:

Please join us for the Virginia Parks on the Air Net (VA POTA Net) at 8pm every Tuesday. The net meets on the POTAVA AllStar Node #60325. Central Virginia hams can participate via the K4BRW 224.800 MHz repeater (PL 151.4 Hz, – offset), which is linked to the POTAVA node during the net.

In Parks on the Air (<https://parksontheair.com/>), “activators” set up a portable station in a national or state park (or other sites like state forests or national historic sites) and “hunters” try to contact them. There are awards for both activators and hunters, none of

which have any monetary value whatsoever. 😊 The real reward for activators is getting out in nature, enjoying the scenery while working a pileup. (It's kind of like a

DXpedition, except without the Antarctic storms and penguin poop.) For hunters, the reward is the thrill of the chase and helping to make a successful activation.

There are a number of avid activators and hunters in Central Virginia. Some of us thought it would be fun to have a weekly net where we can share our experiences and lessons learned. If it turns out to be popular, the Virginia POTA Net will be a weekly activity.

The Greene County Virginia Amateur Radio Club (GCVARC) has excellent pages on how to participate in AllStar if you don't have access to a linked repeater. For Android phones look at <https://gcvarc.net/android-phones/>; for iPhones look at <https://gcvarc.net/iphone/>. (Note that you'll need to replace references to the K4BRW node with the POTAVA node #60325.)

If you have an AllStar-capable repeater and would like to link to the VA POTA Net node during the net to provide access to your local hams, please feel free to do so. Questions about linking can be sent to info@potava.net.

We hope you will enjoy your participation and decide to become a regular. Keep an eye on the Net Web site at <https://www.potava.net> and the discussion group at <https://groups.io/g/VA-POTA-NET> for updates and useful information.

++Section Manager Close-out++

2023 brought a lot of exciting changes to amateur radio, not the least of which was the elimination of the symbol rate limit on HF. It was the combined work of ARRL HQ, Section Managers, Section Emergency Coordinators, and in many cases, the State-wide Interoperable Coordinators (SWICs) and State and County (or equiv.) emergency managers throughout the US and Territories. There are other legislation in various stages in Congress, and it is the hard work that each of you do that makes this possible. Please make sure that whenever you conduct an event, whether it be a school Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) event, public service event, or technical demonstration, advertise it well in advance and as widely as possible. Get press and dignitaries to attend. And of course, photos and press releases! Send copies to me so that I can get that up to HQ and maybe to other outlets. We can grow the amateur radio service and protect our spectrum.

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

73,

Jack KE4LWT