



**VIRGINIA SECTION EAST OF I-95  
AMATEUR RADIO NEWS**

**March, 2026**

**Fellow ARRL Southeastern Virginia, Richmond Area Hams, Eastern Shore, Northern Neck, Peninsula, and Middle Peninsula Operators,**

Dear ARRL Club Officers and Members,

With the coming of March, our clubs and members will have many opportunities to get involved. From the upcoming W1AW/4 week beginning the evening of March 10<sup>th</sup>, to the State Convention as part of the Vienna Wireless Hamfest, and finally to the Virginia QSO Party sponsored by the Sterling Park ARC with the opportunity to earn the Worked All Virginia Award sponsored by the Rappahannock Valley ARC, our state is full of great events. Get involved! Join us!

73,

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

**Affiliated Club POCs:**

As many of you may know, the VA Section ARRL members recently elected a new Section Manager following Jack Smith's (KE4LWT) four years in Office. Jack's

leadership will be missed. I am looking forward serving all ARRL members as the next VA Section Manager, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks to the many of you who voted, those who sent notes of congratulations. In particular, thanks to Terry Buzzard (KA8TNF) who also ran for the SM position. Terry was one of the first to send a note of congratulations, and stated he looks forward continuing to work in our Emergency Coordinator team.

We have been busy preparing for the turnover.

One of the most important appointments the SM makes is that of the Affiliated Clubs Coordinator (ACC), and as such ask your leadership to consider nominating a great candidate as the next ACC. The duties of the ACC are listed at: <https://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-coordinator> Please send the names of your volunteers to me at [aimonema@aol.com](mailto:aimonema@aol.com) by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The SM appointments go beyond that of the ACC. The list is at: <https://www.arrl.org/field-organization> We can use your help identifying strong candidates for these positions.

The Commonwealth is blessed with active radio clubs. The seventy-one radio clubs in the Commonwealth serve as the high-power beacons calling all Amateurs to actively participate in the hobby. Twenty-one of these clubs are in NoVA. Combined across the Commonwealth, the clubs serve 4,300 members (of which 2,700 are ARRL members). An additional 1,000 Hams belong to ARRL but to the clubs. Combined with an estimated 5,000 active Hams in Virginia who neither belong to ARRL or a VA Section affiliated club, there are about 10,000 active Hams in the Commonwealth. A final number: there are over 20,000 licensed Amateur Radio Operators in the FCC database residing in Virginia.

Don't forget the W1AW/4 activation March 10-17, and ask your club members to sign up for operating times at: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uAGeVSKTefGVofy-gpho\\_QbEgLAC4IjldF2GBUN7wR0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uAGeVSKTefGVofy-gpho_QbEgLAC4IjldF2GBUN7wR0/edit?usp=sharing)

Also, the VA QSO Party is Mar 21-22, and the sponsors are asking if you are operating a club station for the VQP, you let the sponsors know. Just add your club to the list at: <https://forms.gle/kqYKw5TcPobv1Hxr7>

Later in the month, when ARRL releases the list of New Hams, I'll send the list along to you.

73,

Mike, WA8AHZ

ARRL VA Section Affiliated Club Coordinator (No VA)

Salty Walt Hudson K4OGO

A treasure for Amateur Radio

By Ed Gibbs KW4GF

Thanks to my friend, John Roberts WB4AXY, a member of the Virginia Beach ARC BOD, I tuned into "Salty" K4OGO Walt Hudson's "Coastal Waves and Wires" ON You Tube. The channel is terrific! Walt is a resident of Portsmouth, Virginia, and a member of the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service. Despite being a nationally recognized speaker, Walt is devoted to his amateur radio work here in Southeastern Virginia and can frequently be found on a beach in VA Beach. Walt recently completed a video recognizing the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service's monthly Shack Day. A week later, Walt visited the Virginia Beach ARC to present antennas from his book "Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Sketch Book. Frankly, I'm not a technical DIY type of ham, but Walt's designs and explanations are so easy to follow that one has to just pick up the basic supplies and build the antennas. That's what I'm doing!!!!

Feel free to purchase the book at [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org)

Take a look:



[Shack Day with my](#)

[Ham Radio Club](#)



**Walt K4OGO presenting at the Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club on March 5,2026.**

**SALTY!**

**STAY**

**SOCIETY**

**VIRGINIA WIRELESS**

## ARRL VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION

The upcoming ARRL VA Section Convention is on Mar 15<sup>th</sup> at Oakton HS, in Vienna VA. The convention will be live streamed via Zoom and the link is: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82991785201?pwd=ZJp0tFWtvXQa5w0zilnBQDRorETsux.1> You should not need it, but the Meeting ID: 829 9178 5201 & Passcode: 385178. Hope to see you at the Convention, but if not, please join via Zoom.

### Worked All Virginia Award

**Sponsor:** Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club, Fredericksburg, Virginia

**Object:** To promote amateur radio activity within the state of Virginia, and to encourage radio contacts with Virginia amateurs.

Available to Radio Amateurs worldwide who have made 2-way amateur radio contact with at least 50 Virginia counties or Independent Cities. Contacts can be made from any QTH.

The Basic Award is attained by contacting 50 counties or Independent Cities.

Continue below:

The Golden Endorsement requires contact with all 95 counties or an Independent City bordering the county claimed. If using the Independent City to claim credit for working a county, you may use that Independent City credit for only ONE county (for example, if you work a station in Richmond, you can't claim credit for working Henrico County AND Chesterfield County.

The Virginia Presidents Endorsement requires communication with a station in each of the 95 counties (not a bordering Independent City) AND each of the Independent Cities.

All modes and amateur frequencies are eligible for use in attaining this award. No repeater, phone patch, or cross-mode QSO's allowed.

Fees: \$5.00 (U.S.) for the Basic Award to cover cost of printing and mailing. A self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) is required to get the endorsement stickers.

Applications for the Worked All Virginia (WAV) Award certificate must be submitted on the WAV Application form along with the Counties and Independent Cities record sheet showing callsign and county of station worked, date, time (UTC), band, and mode.

The WAV Award Managers reserve the right to spot check any QSO's for validity by requesting QSL cards or contacting the listed station to confirm the QSO.

**Send completed forms to:**

**Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club  
C/O Worked All Virginia Award  
PO Box 1496  
College Station  
Fredericksburg, VA 22402**

**Forms are located on their website.**

From the ARRL Weekly Newsletter;

March 5, 2026

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**Hams Help Forecasters with Real-Time Data on Northeast Blizzard**

A historic blizzard paralyzed much of the Northeast in late February, and amateur radio operators were on the air to help forecasters keep track of the storm's impact.

Southeastern New England was one of the hardest-hit areas. ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator and Boston-area SKYWARN Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, reported that ARES®/SKYWARN nets across southern New England were activated to support the National Weather Service (NWS) Boston/Norton office, as well as local and state emergency management and broadcast media, with timely updates on the storm.





“We had ARES/SKYWARN nets activating on an every one-to-two-hour basis providing snowfall, wind gust, wind damage and coastal flood reports,” said Macedo, adding that reports were received from SKYWARN spotters of snowfall as high as 43 inches in Tiverton, Rhode Island, and 41 inches in Fall River, Massachusetts. Providence, Rhode Island, received 37.8 inches, breaking the state’s snowfall record. More details on the amateur radio response in southern New England are on [ARRL News](#).


Combined ARES/SKYWARN nets were also activated in the ARRL Connecticut and Northern New Jersey Sections, with stations asked to report on snow depth and wind speed. These reports were relayed to the National Weather Service forecast offices serving the New York and Boston areas.

In addition, the Department of Homeland Security’s SHARES (SHARED RESOURCES) High Frequency (HF) Radio Program, which includes amateur radio as part of its network, issued a blizzard watch, requesting voluntary activation of all participating stations in New York and New Jersey as a real-time test of its Civil Support Operations (CSO) HF Interoperability Network. Stations were asked to submit a “County Status Message” for their respective counties using Winlink and VARA HF Chat. Operation coordinator Richard Martino, Jr., KB2SNF/NNA2AO (SHARES call sign) reported that 23 amateurs and 8 SHARES stations in 20 counties submitted reports. In an after-action memo, Martino noted that the Amateur Radio Service is “the backbone of ‘Real Time’ information in the case of a ‘Real World’ CSO event,” adding that amateur radio “is an invaluable CSO resource on a national level and that cannot be understated or overlooked.”

## **Indiana Hams Living Under HOAs Gain Antenna Protections**

The Indiana General Assembly has passed and Governor Mike Braun has signed a bill that adds protection for amateur radio operators who live in homeowner association (HOA) regulated housing developments.

Official language of the House Bill 1152 can be found at [IGA | House Bill 1152 - Homeowners association matters](#).



Credit for adding the new language goes to Hunter Reed, KD9YLQ; Campbell Reed, KD9GEK, and State Senator Scott Alexander for their efforts writing and introducing the bill, and to the Muncie Area Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL Affiliated Club.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

Hampton Public

Service Team

[About HPT - Hampton](#)

[Public Service Team](#)


## Who We Are

### Connecting Communities Through Preparedness

In today's fast-paced world, the importance of community and mutual support has never been clearer. When disaster strikes or community events need seamless coordination, a group of dedicated individuals steps up to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. HPT is focused on supporting the City of Hampton emergency communications, membership is open to Amateur Radio operators from all locations.

HPT is a group of approximately one hundred Amateur Radio operators or HAMs who offer their personal equipment, vehicles, training, and communication abilities to support their local communities in times of emergency events or during community gatherings. Our commitment to service and preparedness is something you can count on.

If an emergency event occurs, we initiate local emergency radio nets during times of severe weather – hurricanes, tornados, nor-easters, heavy snow, ice storms, et cetera. During emergency conditions we support Hampton's emergency operations by working in disaster support facilities for fire and police as well as with non-governmental disaster relief organizations.



The HPT also functions as the inactivated RACES organization for the City of Hampton. Per CFR 47 Part 97.401-407, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) exists when activated by the local civil defense organization. For the City of Hampton, the Emergency Management Office is the civil defense organization vested with that authority. HPT keeps our RACES capability organized.

In the past, we assisted with emergency communications during Hurricane Irene and manned city and disaster support facilities to ensure backup radio communications were always available. We also helped with the "Freedom Walk" on September 11, 2011, by directing cars in parking lots for the attendees, coordinating event activities, and providing medical emergency and situational awareness monitoring for event management.

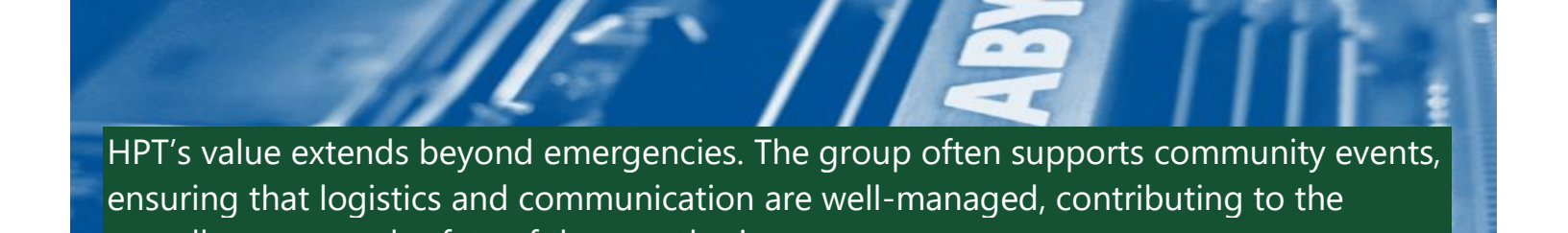
HAM radio, also known as amateur radio, is a versatile and powerful communication tool. Unlike traditional means of communication that often rely on centralized infrastructure, HAM radio operates on a peer-to-peer basis. This decentralization makes it particularly useful in emergency situations when conventional communication channels might fail. HAM operators can communicate over long distances using various frequencies and modes, enabling them to bridge communication gaps when other systems fail.

HPT is a prime example of how HAM operators are using their skills and resources for the greater good. The members of HPT are not just hobbyists; they are community-oriented individuals who have realized the potential of their abilities in serving their neighbors, in the city of Hampton and surrounding communities, during challenging times.

At the core of HPT's mission is a commitment to community well-being. Whether it is a natural disaster, a public event, or any situation that requires coordination, HPT members step in to ensure that communication lines stay open, allowing essential information to flow seamlessly.

HAM radio operation requires specialized training and licensing. HPT members go through rigorous training to obtain the necessary licenses, honing their skills to provide effective communication assistance during times of need.

In emergencies, when power grids are compromised and traditional communication systems fail, HPT's HAM operators become a lifeline. Their ability to relay critical information helps emergency services make informed decisions, potentially saving lives.



HPT's value extends beyond emergencies. The group often supports community events, ensuring that logistics and communication are well-managed, contributing to the overall success and safety of these gatherings.

Our success lies in a collaborative spirit. These operators form a network, where each member's skills complement others. They understand that communication is a key element of an effective disaster response, and they use their expertise to bridge gaps that might otherwise hinder effective action.

In an era where technology can sometimes lead to isolation, HPT reminds us of the power of human connection and collaboration. The group's commitment to using their skills and resources for the greater good is an inspiring testament to the resilience and generosity of the human spirit.

The next time you see a group of HAM operators diligently managing communications at a community event or stepping in during an emergency, remember that they are the backbone of preparedness and resilience. HPT

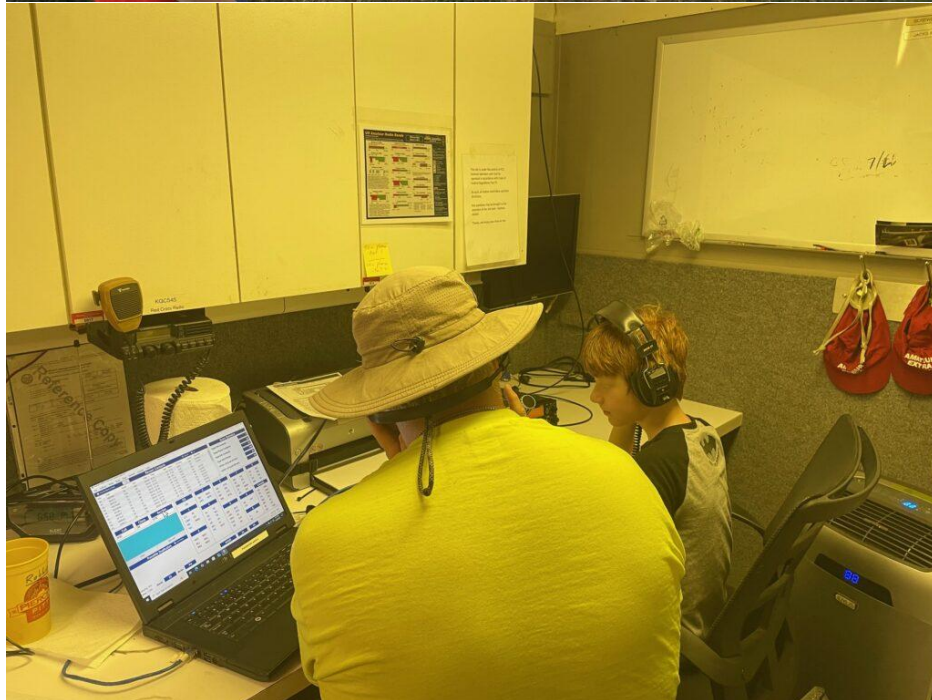
and similar organizations around the world are a reminder that, when united by a common purpose, ordinary individuals can achieve extraordinary feats.

For more details about our capabilities, leadership and other groups in the area, visit our [HPT Details](#) page.

Team- Field Day 2025

Hampton Public Service





Please send news and pictures for the April, 2026, Virginia East of I-95 Amateur Radio News



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