

East of VA I-95 Amateur Radio News

A RECENT SUCCESS

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

better organize the ARRL Virginia Section.

Keep in touch!

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

Assistant Section Manager

ARRL VA Section

Email: [beachteach15 at vhqcc.com](mailto:beachteach15@vhqcc.com)

August 2026

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

I visited and presented at the Middle Peninsula Amateur Club's July Meeting and supported our Section Manager's presentation at the CARS Shack Day.

Both were well attended with a lot of great comments and questions. I just came back from Roanoke Valley Hamfest and that was a truly joyous experience. I met and talked with amateur radio operators all the way from Covington, Virginia to Carroll County and west to Martinsville. Again, there were great discussions about ham radio and the League. The Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club and their President, Marty Rosendale K4QS, were so accommodating. Just a lot of fun!



Tap here to add a caption

I am looking forward to visiting with the Western Tidewater Radio Association's August meeting where I will present the Section Manager's Listening Session. I will be visiting the Peninsula Amateur Radio Club in early September.

The Southeastern Virginia Hamfest and Swap Meet is this coming Saturday, and I hope there will be a great turnout. See you there!

Here is an email from Doug N4IRK, the Secretary of TRCI, the sponsor of the Hamfest:

August 8 is fast approaching for the first Southeastern VA Hamfest and swap meet and I know you don't want to miss it. We open the doors at 8am for tailgaters and 9am for ticket holders and buyers to go indoors. Tickets are \$10 at the door. This year we have some vendors; Writer Salty Walt will be in the house with copies of VOL 2 Antenna creation book for \$25 and you can talk to him and get your book signed. We have a VE Test session going on from 9am until noon for all levels of licensing and we have 3 forums from noon till 3 pm...VA ARRL group, SKYWARN and the Antenna Car seen around the state. There will be food at a modest price for meal groups. We are here to help you and answer questions with demos of projects and creations. Don Lynch will be here to check your QSL cards. There are hourly give aways for the most part, during the event. Those in Richmond are not a long drive to Newport News and from Tidewater we are a short drive up the interstate. Come See us and have fun.

Doug Duggan
TRCI Secretary

Douglas.duggan@vbcert.net

73,

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

Assistant Section

Welcome

**2026 SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL
HAM RADIO FEST AND SWAP MEET**

August 8, 2026

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

12742 NETTLES DR

NEWPORT NEWS VA

Lat: 37° 08865' N Lon: 76° 49548' W

Talk-in has been changed and the new Frequency is:

146.730 – PL 100.0

Admission: Door \$10.00 Tailgate \$5.00

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

[Hamfest Flyer](#)

Door Ticket – \$10

[SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL
HAM RADIO FEST AND SWAP MEET – Come find that special item
you been looking for!](#)

Eastern Shore ARC Field Day



Radio Amateur Society of Norfolk (RASON) Field Day



Virginia Beach ARC Field Day



Williamsburg Area ARC Special Event :250th Anniversary of the signing of

The Declaration of Independence



Newsletter from our Section Manager, Mike Aimone WA8AHZ

To all Virginia ARRL Members

Subject: August 2026 Section Newsletter

What's on your Ham Radio bucket list? Are you radio active in the hobby, and if so, how so? If not, what can we do to make you more radio active? Add your bucket list items here:

<https://forms.gle/etWw9kYCX1ExwgzQ6>

Prior to the end of the spring semester, I had the opportunity to visit Hams at UVA and Liberty University. I can report that our collegiate Clubs are active. Speaking of our youth, two Virginia Youth Hams (Connor Black, W4IPC and Tyler Schroder, NT1S from Virginia Beach and Fairfax) are selected to the VK9XY DXpedition Team going to Christmas Island. This is a partnership between the Pacific Islands DXpedition Group and Youth on the Air, and will be on-island Mid-Nov to early Dec 2026.

You might be aware that our VE exam teams across the Commonwealth mint about 800 new Hams annually. While a small percentage are youth, the majority are folks inoculated with the radio bug at an earlier age waited to take their FCC exam later in life. ARRL affiliated clubs receive monthly a list of new hams from their area. Ask a club near you to share the list with you, and take time to write a note of congratulations or send a congratulatory Radiogram to someone on the list. Our goal should be to mentor these new Hams in the hobby to ensure they become, and stay radio active. Sadly, many don't become radio active and leave the hobby before they ever had the opportunity to explore its many facets.

Thanks to the many ARRL members across Virginia who volunteer with SKYWARN, a National Weather Service (NWS) program to report severe weather events. Amateur Radio Operators provide critical weather reports, via radio, when activated. In Virginia, SKYWARN is divided into three regions: National Capital -- WX4LWX, Wakefield -- WX4AKQ, and Blacksburg -- WX4RNK. The ARRL has a Memorandum of Understanding with the NWS to provide these reports. There is no prerequisite to report severe weather, but all three NWS offices covering Virginia provide free classes to help spotters identify severe weather conditions. See their QRZ.com webpages, or your local NWS office websites for programs in your area. Additional volunteers are welcome.

The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service recently passed on a best practice: they host a GOTA-like opportunity when they are conducting a Club-sponsored POTA activation. It's a two-fer and sounds like a winner. Suggest to your local club they could adopt CARS' idea.

Check out our updated Section website, www.arrlva.com Lots of great stuff has been added. Thanks to our webmaster, John Best, KC4MEC and the Section Manager Leadership Team.

73,

**Mike
Michael A. Aimone, WA8AHZ
Section Manager
Serving ARRL Members in Virginia
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www.arrlva.com**

Upcoming: ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET)

The focal-point weekend for this year's ARRL SET is October 3 – 4, 2026. The September 2026 issue of QST will have a one-page announcement for this year's test. As always, local and Section SET teams are encouraged to conduct their exercises on another date throughout the autumn season (or practically any date

throughout the calendar year) if those dates happen to be better for their group, groups, or Section and served agencies with which they are working.

This nationwide exercise is the chance to test your personal emergency operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in a simulated emergency deployment.

ARRL Field Organization leaders at the Section and local levels, and many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communications, are developing scenarios in consultation with a variety of served agencies and organizations.

Station readiness, personal training, and practice are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service. Any time we spend on the air contributes to personal radio communication capability.

ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), the National Traffic System (NTS), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), SKYWARN™, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), and other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are among those who are eligible to participate in the simulated exercise and to practice emergency operation plans, nets, and procedures.

The popular ARRL Basic Emcomm Course is available: This course is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer. The Basic Emcomm course contains three modules and 11 topics, including required prerequisites, and is expected to take approximately 10 – 20 hours to complete. You will have access to the course platform in the ARRL Learning Center at any time of day while you work to complete the course so that you may work according to your own schedule. You will want to pace yourself to be sure you complete all the required material in the allotted time. When you have completed the coursework, take the final assessment for this Basic Emcomm course to receive a certificate. For more information and questions regarding ARRL Emergency Communications courses or content, please email CEP@arrrl.org.

School May Be Out, But the Teachers Are Here: From the ARRL Newsletter

While students across the country are soaking in their summer vacations, some of their teachers are at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, participating in the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology ([TI](#)).

“This is the most valuable professional development I have ever attended!” said Colleen Campbell, KB8VAQ, from Columbiana, Ohio, a teacher attending this week’s TI-1 session. The course introduces educators to the basics of electronic principles, radio frequency propagation, and antennas.



ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF (far right), with educators participating in the July 13-16 TI-1 cohort of the ARRL Teachers Institute. [Gregory Sull, KC1YNI, photo]

The session is one of several held at ARRL Headquarters throughout the summer as part of a significant expansion of the program to reach more educators each year. Additional sessions have also been held at locations around the country, bringing wireless technology education to more classrooms and communities.

The growth of the Teachers Institute reflects ARRL's commitment to developing the next generation of radio amateurs by reaching students through the educators who inspire them.

This week's instructor is ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF, of Brunswick, Georgia, who is teaching six TI sessions this year.

"Generations of radio amateurs credit ham radio with sparking their interest in science, engineering, and technology," said Greene. "Through hands-on experiences with topics such as radio-enabled high-altitude balloons, satellite communications, radio astronomy, and wireless security, we are equipping teachers to bring that same spark into their classrooms. Each educator we reach has the potential to inspire hundreds of students who may be our next radio amateurs, innovators, and technology professionals."



ARRL TI includes both classroom instruction and hands-on field activities. Teachers return home with the classroom resources and

activities they experienced during the weeklong session. [Gregory Sulla, KC1YNI, photo]

Campbell added, "Our instructor, Wayne, has so much knowledge to share and does so in the most humorous ways. His attention-getting demonstrations will mesmerize my students in the same ways they have the other teachers and me this week!"

For more information about the program, visit www.arrl.org/teachers-institute-on-wireless-technology. Individuals and radio clubs who can help expand opportunities for educators and students are invited to consider supporting the ARRL [Education & Technology Fund](#).

For more information, contact Ed Gibbs KW4GF. Contact information is below.

That's all,
folks. Please send me
club news and
pictures for inclusion
in this newsletter!

Ed Gibbs KW4GF

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ARRL Virginia Section

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