



VIRGINIA SECTION HAM RADIO NEWS QSL! #21

January, 2021

Virginia Section's New Website-January 15, 2021

First, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We are all hoping for a better 2021. And the leadership of the Virginia Section hopes you join us in building a bigger and better Virginia Section.

We have a new website! Thanks to John Best, KC4MEC, VA Section Webmaster, we have a better way to communicate. The website will be fully operational around January 15. Unfortunately, the intricacies of website development combined with our Webmaster's main IT job which has consisted of dealing with the recent national hacking problems have held back the ability to get the website up to speed. Sorry for that!

The features will constantly evolve and will be an inclusive tool for all our hams. No, this is not a Facebook Page, but communications can be delivered efficiently to VA Section Leadership or to all our clubs. We hope you appreciate this new tool. If you get a chance, email John, and let him know what you think. Oh, you should easily find his email link on the website: arrlva.com.

Please be advised the current ARES/RACES of Virginia Facebook Page is no longer available.

I am the new Assistant Section Manager to go with the Public Information Coordinator. It has been a very busy job as I am averaging 10-15 hours a week on many duties. I have a multi-faceted job as I serve at the Section Manager's direction and take care of clubs, PIC work, and help with ARES as the SEC needs my help. Please call (757)274-5793) or write me at KW4GF@ARRL.net .



While I may not give you the answer your query or to the problem, I will make a strong effort to connect you with a group or individual who can help you.

73,

Ed KW4GF

**New River Valley Announces:
New Officers for 2021**

Our officers for 2021 will be the same as 2020.

President - Cam Coble, W4XXV

Vice-President - Christopher Peters, K4HZ

Secretary - Ed Lener, AK4IS

Treasurer - Steve Allen, WD4JIX

**From the ARRL:
Contest University to Host Propagation Summit**

12/16/2020

Several radio propagation experts will share their knowledge during a Propagation Summit via Zoom, sponsored by Contest University (CTU). The event is scheduled for January 23, 2021. The presentation schedule includes:

- “Update on the Personal Space Weather Station Project and HamSCI Activities for 2021” with Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, at 11 AM EST (1600 UTC)
- “Solar Cycle 25 Predictions and Progress” with Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, at noon (1700 UTC)
- “Maximizing Performance of HF Antennas with Irregular Terrain” with Jim Breakall, WA3FET, at 1 PM EST (1800 UTC)
- “HF Ionospheric Propagation” with Frank Donovan, W3LPL, at 2 PM EST (1900 UTC).



Registration is free. An Icom IC-705 will be raffled off as a “door” prize. The winner must be present on Zoom to win. — Thanks to CTU Chair Tim Duffy, K3LR

From Brendan O’Neill KM4HRR

NOVA: Where 2 Meters is Alive and Well!

On Friday 11-DEC-2020 a few local HAM’s spent the day in the Tysons Corner, VA area upgrading and installing some 2m analog & some 70cm DMR repeaters (2 SLR8000 & an SLR5700), a remote receive SLR5700 an analog RC210 controller & a Celwave combiner as well as what will eventually be an EchoLink node on the VWS K4HTA repeater. (Edit: I almost forgot the windows 10 server for remote systems and code plug management) Thanks to N9KET, N4CV, KA3RQR and KM4HRR for the long day and great teamwork.





SB QST @ ARL \$ARLB041

ARLB041 FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

ZCZC AG41

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 41 ARLB041

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT December 31, 2020

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB041

ARLB041 FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications."

In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

**The R&O can be found online in PDF format at,
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf> .**

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and urged its members to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, "ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service." The fee proposal was contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 - the so-called "Ray Baum's Act."

Information on Ray Baum's Act can be found online in PDF format at, <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ141/PLAW-115publ141.pdf>.

"After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the NPRM for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated," the FCC said in the R&O. "We adopt the proposal from the NPRM to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated."

The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMR) licenses.

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption "where none presently exists."

The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

"[W]e is very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public," the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called "Ray Baum's Act" requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. "Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules," the FCC noted. "As we have noted previously, 'while the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.'"

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's

Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"While the Ray Baum's Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act," the FCC R&O explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, "once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated."

NNNN

/EX

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club:

Good Stuff on their Website

I've noticed that Albemarle Amateur Radio Club puts up their presentations on its website. Way cool!

Their description:

WELCOME — TAKE A LOOK AROUND AND COME JOIN US ON THE WEB OR IN A MEETING

The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club (AARC) is an organization dedicated to the advancement of Amateur Radio and to public service. We meet monthly on the grounds of UVA, conduct Ham Radio license preparation classes, administer Volunteer Examination sessions, operate a network of VHF and UHF repeaters, mentor new ham radio operators, practice providing emergency communications, and support many public service events. We have 110 members. Our members are involved in all aspects of Amateur Radio

including casual QSOs on all HF, VHF and UHF bands, contesting, DXing, RTTY, CW, SSB, all digital formats, building antennas, experimenting, and service to our local community.

AARC is an ARRL Special Service Club. AARC members are also heavily involved in emergency communications (ARES/RACES of VA) services, and the ARRL Field Day.

Here's the web page:

<https://www.albemarleradio.org/presentations-from-recent-club-meetings/>





Winter Field Day

January 30/31, 2021

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<https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

WE CAN ALL LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

Kerry Hofferth NH2A on the Williamsburg Amateur Radio Club Reflector

On Sunday 20 December, a small exam session was conducted for Craig Spears, KO4KIY. Craig easily passed his Technician *and* General Class exams. Congratulations, Craig!

This session taught me an important lesson about planning. Jack KN4VSS and Anita KH2FX were the initial VEs for the Technician exam. The session got started on time. As Craig finished within a record 10 minutes, I realized in order to grade Craig's General test, I was going to need one more Extra class VE. Fred KN4ZME answered my panicked phone call and came right over.

Craig said he wanted to take the extra Exam too if he passed General. Oh, oh. I was going to need one more Extra to grade that exam. Randy KM4YSN rushed over. We were able to grade all three exams for Craig in short order.



Lesson learned for me... Be better prepared for examinees who want to go all the way. Especially when they *tell* me ahead of time what their game plan is.

My failure highlights what a great VE team we have. Jack stepped up immediately when I made the one and only announcement for a VE. Thank you Jack for answering the call. Fred, and then Randy dropped everything and came to my rescue without hesitation. Both of them saved my bacon. I only had to suffer humiliation because I did not plan this well. It would have been a fireable offense if I could not have given Craig the advancement opportunities that I had promised. Thank you Jack, Fred, Randy, and Anita (who kept whispering in my ear, "you need more Extras"). Also, a big thanks to Mike W4NYY. I could not get through to Mike, but he soon called me back. By then I had Randy already on the way. Mike was ready to fill in too.

The club's VE team has given four ad hoc exam sessions for individuals who made it known that they were ready to test. There are many opportunities to test around the Tidewater area. But sometimes the brain is full and needs to dump out information right now. We are glad to accommodate these circumstances. We can make other accommodations as well. Get in touch with me and let me know what your testing needs are.



[Send by email](#)



Alexandria Radio Club Tests Amateur Radio Network During Trauma Exercise



Ray Whatley
Acting Emergency Manager

On December 16, the Office of Emergency Management collaborated with Inova Alexandria Hospital and the Alexandria Radio Club to test the amateur radio network – also known as ham radio – as a functional exercise during a planned network communications outage.

Don Lewis of the Alexandria Radio Club, as part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) network, provided the needed support to use the recently installed ham radio equipment in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This was the first test of the ham radio network, and it was successful. The radio equipment was purchased using grant funds to support the City, giving us the additional capability to communicate using these dedicated volunteers.

To learn more about being a ham radio operator visit <https://w4hfh.org/>.



Don Lewis of the Ale



From the Shenandoah Valley Website!

70th Annual Berryville Hamfest Computer/Electronics Show

We WILL see you all on August 1, 2021.

Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds
890 W. Main Street
Berryville, Virginia 22611

ALWAYS THE FIRST SUNDAY IN AUGUST!

***PRESENTED BY THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB***

<https://svarc.us/hamfest/>



From the Roanoke Valley ARC

HamFest 2021

Planning has been initiated, as of Nov. 12, for a possible Saturday, July 31, 2021 event, since Berryville Hamfest has already been announced for Sunday, Aug 1, 2021.

Kevin - N3ABC Bob - K4NBZ & Regis - KF4PIY are spearheading the event.

From the Stafford Area Radio Association

Another successful test session on 12 December 2020. 15 Technicians, 3 Generals, and 2 Extras! Meet our first family: Robert K04KEW, Megan K04KEU and Lisa K04KEV Rosenberger - all new Technicians! Listen for K04Kxx call signs!



Just another Cool Shack Day for the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service

Progress was made on our antenna project yesterday (December 19). The rotator plate was lowered, a refurbished Rotator was installed, a new 20' mast was installed, Mosley 2 meter beam was assembled and installed, and the grounding box was assembled. All that's left is making some coax and hooking it all up. Thank you everyone that came out to assist.



K4AMG SK



THANK YOU to everyone who has supported our mentoring efforts.

It is with great sorrow, we announce the K4AMG Memorial Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will be disestablished as of December 31, 2020. Since 2006, our club has mentored students in electronics and wireless communications in Chesapeake, VA. We began mentoring at the Chesapeake Center for Science and Technology and finished at Great Bridge High School. At our recent 2020 annual Board of Directors meeting, we were unable to fill vacant Broad of Directors and most officer positions.

At the same time, the Great Bridge High School Amateur Radio Club (W4GBH - "the Mars Generation") is being disestablished, as the school is not interested in our mentoring program. We have introduced many students to amateur radio and broadcast technologies and have many success stories. Over the years we had been looking to the stars, fund raising for our students to fabricate, test, and launch an amateur radio satellite that would orbit the earth. The satellite was to carry the W4GBH call sign. It would have been one



of the few high schools in space! Our students and amateur radio operators around the world would have been able to communicate over it. These satellites are called “OSCARS” - Orbiting Satellites Carrying Amateur Radio. Many of our students have communicated through OSCAR Satellites. We made many pitches to principals, teachers, school board members, and others in the city of Chesapeake – most showed very little or no interest in supporting our mentoring program.

The funds raised for the satellite project will now be distributed as part of our closer and to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for distribution of assets to other non-profit organizations with similar missions. These organizations have supported K4AMG and will receive funds and/or equipment:

Radio Club of America (RCA)

Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL)

The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation – North America (AMSAT – NA)

USS Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR)

The K4AMG portable SATCOM Station was donated to the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group – K4LRG for STEM youth activities.

The K4AMG hand- held SATCOM station was donated to the Scout Venture Crew 80 National Capital Area - W3BSA

Classroom amateur radio equipment and spare radios will be donated to the



Radio Club of America for youth activities.

The W₄GBH repeater is currently in a “limbo status” - held up buy the bureaucracy in the city of Chesapeake, WHRO – Public Radio and TV, and other factors. Hopefully, there will be end with good results.

What is your club doing? Please let me know and I’ll publicize it. Send me your Soap Box. If not, I’ll find news on your websites and FB Pages. Your work is GOLDEN!

Send me information about new hams, and I want to hear from clubs and individuals!!!!

Ed Gibbs KW₄GF

ARRL VA Section Public Information Coordinator

[KW₄GF@ARRL.net](mailto:KW4GF@ARRL.net)

Twitter: @ARRLVIRGINIA

Instagram: ARRLVIRGINIA





ED GIBBS KW₄GF
PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR
KW₄GF@ARRL.NET

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER:
@ARRLVIRGINIA