

Virginia Section of the ARRL May Section Manager's Report (Covering April)

++Affiliated Club Coordinator++

Be sure to mark your calendar to attend Field Day, June 22-23rd. To find a Field Day location near you, go to: <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> Consider inviting an inactive Ham in your neighborhood to join you at Field Day. How to find inactive Hams? See: <https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map> and enter your radio call sign. Knock on a door of a Ham you don't know in the 'hood, or send him/her a QSL card with contact info to start a conversation.

ARRL VA Section Affiliated Club Coordinators

If you'd like to assist with the affiliated club coordination, please get with Mike WA8AHZ at WA8AHZ AT arrl DOT net . The goal is to divide Virginia into a few smaller, more manageable sections. And a big "Welcome" to Ed Gibbs KW4GF for stepping up to help out as an Affiliated Club Coordinator!

++Section Youth Coordinator++

73

McKenzie Denton (KO4GLN)

McKenzie Denton

Virginia Section Youth Coordinator

KO4GLN@arrl.net

++Upcoming Events++

Field Day (June 22/23)

This is our opportunity to shine and show off to our communities. June gets here a lot quicker than you think! If you're participating with a club, or as an ARES unit, make sure you put on your best face and look as business like as you can. Invite the local emergency management, volunteer groups, youth groups, educators, and the general public. Make a good showing and advertise our services! Make sure and use the hashtags #ARRLFD, #ARRL #HamRadio #AmateurRadio #YourCommunityHashtags in your posts on social media. There's an excellent resource available at <https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2023/ARRL%20Field%20Day%20-%20Public%20Relations%20Kit.docx>

<https://www.arrl.org/field-day>

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

Ed Gibbs KW4GF is still available to present GOTA For Life to clubs or club officers at their meetings via ZOOM. Ed recently spoke with the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service's BOD. The presentation lasts about 30 minutes. Please contact Ed at beachteach15@yahoo.com.

I highly encourage your clubs or ARES units to get with Ed to go over this information. There are a lot of valuable tips that can help you recruit and retain members, and keep them active, from the time they are first licensed until they become silent keys.

+++Skywarn Request for Assistance+++

Jerry AI0K who volunteers with the Baltimore/Washington NWS Office is recruiting for a subnet coordinator for the Waynesboro/Charlottesville subnet, consisting of Albemarle, Augusta, Greene and Nelson counties. The main requirements for the coordinators job are SKYWARN Basic training (the NWS hopes to have an online class in May or June, depending on vacation schedules) and experience as net control of directed nets. SKYWARN experience is also desired, but not required. Additionally, the subnet coordinator will have to spend time building the program. He/she will need to establish scripts for the net control stations (he/she can use the ones on our wx4lwx.us site as a starting point), promote the program in that area and recruit net control stations. I've found weekly weather nets help with all of this. The subnet coordinator and net control stations will also have access to two restricted NWS tools that help during events.

+++Hamfests+++

06/01/2024 Ole Virginia Hams Tailgate

Location: Manassas, VA

Type: Regular Hamfest

Sponsor: W4OVH Ole Virginia Hams

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

08/03/2024 - Roanoke Hamfest

Location: Vinton, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Roanoke Valley ARC

Website: <https://roanokehamfest.info/>

08/04/2024 - SVARC Berryville Hamfest / Virginia Section Convention

Location: Berryville, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

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

8/10/2024 - Tidewater Hamfest and Swap Meet

Location: Portsmouth, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest (application submitted)

Sponsor: Tidewater Radio Conventions (Formerly Va Beach Hamfest)

Website: <http://VirginiaBeachHamfest.com>

08/10/2024 - Tidewater Hamfest and Swap Meet

Location: Portsmouth, VA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Tidewater Radio Conventions

Website: <http://VirginiaBeachHamfest.com>

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)++

After a slight delay for technical reasons, the League has released the first two of the new EmComm courses April 19. Basic EmComm is now required for what was formerly ARES Level 1, now known as "Basic Level" and Intermediate EmComm, will be required for what was Level 2 are live in the ARRL Learning Center now. With the new courses being released the legacy courses will be removed as the new ones are released. If you have previously completed EC-001 or EC-016, you will not have to

complete the newer courses. The League plans to have Advanced EmComm and ARES Leadership courses complete by early summer.

I highly recommend at least viewing the new courses as much has changed since EC-001 and EC-016 were originally published.

+++ARES May Report+++

The ARES Monthly Report continues 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 Gmail dot COM. Remember, each hour is equivalent to our partner organizations spending \$33.38 in training an operator, and of course we provide the equipment as well, saving them even more.

+++ARES Leadership Updates+++

Welcome these fine folks to the ARES team:

Joe Kalfa, KD2HZG as Emergency Coordinator for Alexandria. Rick N4ASX will be stepping back to the role of Assistant EC to ensure that Joe has a smooth transition. Thank you both for your service!

We have vacancies for throughout the Section for various positions. If you or someone you know would like to step up, we'd love to have them!

I will be distributing the link to the leadership directory to ARES leadership for review and update. This is what we and our partners use to contact each other if the need comes. Keep an eye out for it and directions.

Also, as you complete your ARES Position Task Books to Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced, let us know so we can get that information out as well. And keep an eye out for the updated Training Task Book. The levels have been renamed to better represent the level of training completed, and eliminate the confusion caused by the backwards numbering compared to the National Qualification System (NQS) standard, which places Level 1 as the highest level.

+++ARRL/ARES MOU with VDEM Update+++

The VDEM/ARRL of VA MOU is in the final approval stage and awaiting one more review/signature. As soon as that's completed, a copy will be circulated and we can begin the re-write of the VA ARES Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). One thing to remember with the EOP is that it does not replace or supersede any partner organizations' EOPs, but is available for when they do not have one to use, or to serve

as an annex to theirs, with joint approval. They are the "served" agency, and we are there to serve them.

+++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.

Steve KN4AOB, EC for Greene County works very closely with Greene County Office of Emergency Services, and began working on this year's Simulated Emergency Test (SET) as soon as they completed last year's. They're looking to make this into a District 2 event, and have requested that any groups looking to participate please let them know of what dates they're currently viewing. Traditionally the SET is the first full weekend in October (5 and 6 this year), but we realize that other groups may already have committed to other exercises near that time. Please let me and Steve know what you think would be good timing for you. Steve can be reached at s388bow AT gmail DOT com. If you're in another district and want to participate, chime in as well! I'll be reaching out to the VA VOAD and VDEM to get as much participation as possible from them as well.

+++Partner Sponsored Exercise+++

Greg KB4CFP is working on staffing for the annual Virginia Operations Plan Exercise (VOPEX) which encompasses several counties in Virginia. This is a critical test that is required annually to re-certify the safety and security of the nuclear facilities in Virginia.

From Greg, "Anyone that comes will have to fill out a Spotsylvania background check form and be cleared in advance.

I have staff for the EOC and staging area. Spotsylvania will also be running a Evacuation center. It is here where I will need additional help. I would like to have someone with an HT providing communications for each organization that will be working the center with the exception of the Sheriff's Office. I also want someone to shadow the director in charge of the center and a floater or two to provide bathroom breaks to those hams working with the organizations."

Please contact Greg at KB4CFP at GMAIL dot COM.

++Section Traffic Manager Report++

Va Section Traffic News

Station Activity Report (SAR) and Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) Reports for April 2024

KK4PUX – SAR - 36, PSHR – 210

N3SW – SAR- 42 - PSHR – 90

W4CAC – SAR – 29, PSHR – 149

Net Reports for April

Va Sideband Net – QTC – 49/32, QND - 247, QNI – 179, Sessions - 30

VN – QTC- 29 , QND - 261, QNI - 119, Sessions - 29

Ports ARC - QTC – 0, QND-81, QNI – 41, Sessions – 5

NVTN – QTC – 3/3, QND – 990, QNI – 720, Sessions - 28

Floyd ARS - QTC-0, QND-76, QNI-29, Sessions – 5

South Central Va ARES – QTC – 0, QND – 114, QNI – 21, Sessions – 3

Metro Richmond ARES Net – QTC – 0, QND – 182, QNI – 53, Sessions - 4

We have another new net in Virginia. The Metro Richmond ARES Net meets weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM local time. They will be on 145.430 with a 74.4hz tone. Coverage is Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, into other outlying counties such as Hanover, Goochland, King William, Colonial Heights, and Petersburg. Randall Breen, KO4KAD, is the net manager. Check out their numbers above. They are already drawing a crowd. Stop by and check-in!

73, Carl, W4CAC, w4cac@cox.net

++Section Manager Close-out++

As many of you know, I'm an emergency manager working in response and recovery. Currently I'm out in the mid-west, where they've been getting hammered by tornadoes. I encourage everyone to reach out to the local volunteer groups, whether they be one of the "traditional" disaster related groups, or one of the others that are so important to our communities, such as the Lions, Shriners, and yes, your local amateur radio clubs. The ability for a population to come together after a horrible event and just re-engage with one another is a tremendous weight off the shoulders of so many, especially when they look around and see so much loss. The reward of being part of something is tremendous, and when you volunteer you bring a gift that you may not be aware of.

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

73,

Jack KE4LWT