



VIRGINIA SECTION HAM RADIO NEWS QSL! #23

March, 2021

2021 Virginia QSO Party

The Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club is once again pleased to announce the arrival of the Virginia QSO Party.

The snow is melting, the days are growing longer, the trees are starting to bud, and the grass is starting to turn green. Therefore, starting on the first day of spring, the Virginia QSO Party engages radio operators in a weekend of fun. Yes, once again, during the third full weekend in March, this year on 20-21 March, operators throughout Virginia, the United States and Canada, and the World, will get on the air to celebrate amateur radio in Virginia.

However, due to the pandemic, we have special rules for the Virginia QSO Party. Stations are requested to space their antennas more than 6 feet from the operators while transmitting. We do not want to detune our antennas with a viral load. If you are mobile, then the roof of your car will serve as a screen to prevent airborne particles from contaminating your antenna. In addition, it is highly probable that the ether, in addition to carrying the radio waves, will act as a solvent to decontaminate the virus. HIHI

The rules, operating aids, past Party statistics, and everything you need to know are on the web at:

https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2021_VQP/2021_VQP_Main.html.

Clubs, companies, and individuals are sponsoring 27 plaques commemorating achievements in many operating categories. The complete list of plaques is available on our web site. There is something for everyone. High, low, and QRP power categories; CW, phone, and digital mode categories; and fixed,



mobile, and expedition station categories are available to fit your particular operating style.

For example, mobile operators enjoy operating from their vehicles. Last year, the high scoring mobile, Matt, W4GO, visited 35 Virginia counties and independent cities. Many people enjoyed following his travels.

However, the Virginia QSO Party needs your help. They need operators to get on the air and make contacts. Last year, there were fixed station logs from only 77 of the 133 counties and independent cities in Virginia. Given that we have over 20,000 licensed operators in Virginia, we should be able to have a fixed station on the air in every QTH and give everyone the opportunity to contact everyplace in the State of Virginia.

Remember,

The 2020 Virginia QSO Party will be held during the weekend of 20-21 March 2021.

Saturday, 20 March 2021 at 1400 UTC - Sunday, 22 March at 0400 UTC and Sunday, 21 March at 1200 UTC until 2400 UTC.

For Virginians, this is Saturday 10 AM - 12 Midnight and Sunday 8 AM - 8 PM Virginia local time.

Please join us on the air!



W4GO Mobile Station



Audrey, KN4CHI

Phishing with CW????

Who would have suspected that Morse Code worked in a browser? Sounds Phi shy to Me!

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/new-phishing-attack-uses-morse-code-to-hide-malicious-urls/>



SB SPCL @ ARL \$ARLX002

ARLX002 MARS Announces Schedule of Dates for 60-Meter Interoperability

ZCZC AX02

QST de W1AW

Special Bulletin 2 ARLX002

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT February 3, 2021

To all radio amateurs


SB SPCL ARL ARLX002

ARLX002 MARS Announces Schedule of Dates for 60-Meter Interoperability

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) has announced dates in 2021 during which MARS members will operate on 60 meters for interoperability with the amateur radio community. Some dates coincide with quarterly Department of Defense Communications Exercises (COMEX).

All exercises will begin on channel 1 as the initial calling channel and move to other 60-meter working channels as may be appropriate.

"In addition to voice calls, I want to introduce passing ICS 213



messages in both voice and digital modes to enhance the overall interop experience," said US Army MARS Chief Paul English, WD8DBY.

English continues, "Our exercises will yield the frequencies to other scheduled exercises or mission activations, which may be called by other agencies for interop support (e.g., hurricane, wildfire, etc.). We regularly instruct MARS members to work cooperatively with the amateur radio community during the use of the 60-meter interop channels. We will continue to track our 60-meter usage and activities."

English said he plans to provide a quarterly usage report of 60-meter interoperability activities.

The interoperability schedule is as follows:

February 23 - 27

Exercise: DOD COMEX 21-1

Location: CONUS

March 1 - 7


Exercise: Interop Outreach

Location CONUS

April 3 - 10

Exercise: Interop Outreach

Location CONUS



April 30 - May 6

Exercise: DOD COMEX 21-2

May 7 - 8

Exercise: Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test

Location: CONUS

June 1 - 6

Exercise: Interop Outreach

Location CONUS

July 5 - 10

Exercise: Interop Outreach

Location CONUS

July 20 - 22

Exercise: DOD COMEX 21-3

Location: CONUS

August 2 - 8

Exercise: Interop Outreach

Location CONUS

September 1 - 6

Exercise: Interop Outreach



Location CONUS

October 1 - 31

Exercise: DOD COMEX 21-4

Location: CONUS

NNNN



Alexandria ARES In Support of the Presidential Inauguration

By Rick Bunn N4ASX

On January 12, The EC for the city of Alexandria, Rick, N4ASX, received an e-mail from Alexandria's Emergency Management Chief requesting ARES support the City's EOC activation from January 15th through January 26th. This was with the possibility of more protests and violence during the inauguration. The Alexandria Radio Club, in support of ARES and the city had recently set up radios in the EOC for this type of event.

At that point e-mails went out to all ARES Alexandria volunteers to request times when they could support this effort. Later on, the 15th the EC was informed that the EOC would be in operation on the 16th from 8AM to Midnight and that continuation of support would depend on what happened on that day. Four ARES operators volunteered, and we set up shifts of two operators. The good news was that there were no events. It was decided that the EOC would go in standby mode with many of their operators working from home and the ARES station would be ready, but ARES would be called in if needed.

The EOC was activated again by Chief Ray Whatley on the 20th (Inauguration day) and he requested operators from 8AM to Midnight. The EC also was called by the Emergency Manager at INOVA Alexandria Hospital and requested ARES support to link to the EOC if there were emergencies because of the inauguration. Start time for the hospital was 6AM.

Three shifts of two operators each were set up for the EOC and four shifts of two operators each were set up for the hospital. Hourly checks between the EOC and Hospital were set up to keep current on status. Additionally, those ARES volunteers who were not assigned were asked along with the Alexandria Radio Club membership at large to monitor as they went about their day-to-day operations can check in if they saw anything that should be known by the EOC.

Shifts were overlapped by 30 minutes to allow handover from one shift to the



next, which worked well.

There were no emergencies during the 20th and both the EOC and Alexandria Hospitals emergency operations shut down at 7PM.

Primary operations were done over the Alexandria Radio Club's D-Star repeater stack which is located in the Hospital and that allows our operators to communicate with handheld radios with the flexibility to be where needed in the hospital. Additionally, the digital nature of D-Star allows for some limited privacy.

Both the City's Emergency Manager and the Hospital's Emergency Manager commented on the professionalism of ARES operators and their extensive knowledge of radio.

Many thanks to those club volunteers that supported the Presidential Inauguration by staffing the City of Alexandria Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the Alexandria INOVA Hospital EOC during the event. Kudos to Rick Bunn (N4ASX, ARES Coordinator), Ian Keith (N8IK), William Wilson (KM4KLLK), Warren Wylupski (KA2BWU), Scott Granado (KM4RDR), Edward Bradshaw (W4EDF), Harry Jones (N4CWP), Larry Walker (K4LDW), Mark Wheeler (WU6R), Monica Wilson (KC2IAY) and Don Lewis (KI4D) for devoting time and effort to this mission.

ARRL to Extend Field Day Rule Waivers from 2020, Add Class D and E Power Limit

The COVID-19 pandemic-modified [ARRL Field Day](#) rules from 2020 will continue this June with the addition of a power limit imposed on Class D (Home Stations) and Class E (Home Stations-Emergency Power) participants. The news from the ARRL Board's Programs and Services Committee comes as many clubs and groups are starting preparations for Field Day in earnest. Field Day 2021 will take place June 26 - 27.



"This early decision should alleviate any hesitancy that radio clubs and individual Field Day participants may have with their planning for the event," said ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE.

For Field Day 2021, Class D stations may work *all other* Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points. This year, however, Class D and Class E stations will be limited to 150 W PEP output.

For Field Day 2021, an *aggregate* club score will be published -- just as it was done last year. The aggregate score will be a sum of all individual entries that attributed their score to that of a specific club.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar. Last summer, a record 10,213 entries were received.

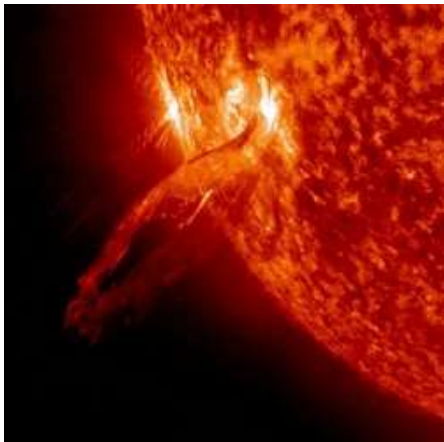
"With the greater flexibility afforded by the rules, waivers, individuals, and groups will still be able to participate in Field Day, while still staying within any public health recommendations and/or requirements," Bourque said.

The [ARRL Field Day](#) web page contains complete rules and entry forms, as well as any updated information as it becomes available. Join the ARRL Field Day [Facebook group](#). Read [an expanded version](#).

A "Perfect Coronal Mass Ejection" Could Be a Nightmare

[A new study](#) in the research journal *Space Weather* considers what might happen if a worst-case coronal mass ejection (CME) hit Earth -- a "perfect solar storm," if you will.

In 2014, Bruce Tsurutani of Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Gurbax Lakhina of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism introduced the "[perfect CME](#)." It could create a magnetic storm with intensity up to the saturation limit, a value greater than the [Carrington Event](#) of 1859, the researchers said. The interplanetary shock would arrive at Earth within about 12 hours, the shock impingement onto the magnetosphere would create a sudden impulse of around 234 nanoteslas (nT), and the magnetic pulse duration in the



magnetosphere would be about 22 seconds. Orbiting satellites would be exposed to "extreme levels of flare and interplanetary CME (ICME) shock-accelerated particle radiation," they said. The event would follow an initial CME that would "clear the path in front of it, allowing the storm cloud to hit Earth with maximum force."

The CME's 12-hour travel time would allow little margin for preparation. The CME would hit Earth's magnetosphere at 45 times the local speed of sound, and the resulting geomagnetic storm could be as much as twice as strong as the Carrington Event. Power grids, GPS, and other services could experience significant outages.

More recent [research](#) led by physicist Dan Welling of the University of Texas at Arlington took a fresh look at Tsurutani and Lakhina's "perfect CME," and given improvements in space weather modeling, he was able to reach new conclusions.

Welling's team found that geomagnetic disturbances in response to a perfect CME could be 10 times stronger than Tsurutani and Lakhina had calculated, especially at latitudes above 45 to 50°. Read [an expanded version](#).



Vienna Wireless Society's Virtual Hamfest:

Something for Everybody

Amateur radio depends on three pillars of constant innovation, training, and mentoring. This year's ARRL Virginia Section Conference hits all three pillars with three exciting and relevant tracks. New and returning ham's track features easy to digest and highly practical content and entertaining speakers. Sessions cover your first radio/antenna, setting up your shack, understanding the airwaves and more. Radio operators interested in current issues need to attend the Hot Topics track. Here, speakers will showcase innovations, challenges, failures, and success stories. And you will have a chance to hear and learn from other radio clubs. This must-see content for all hams. Amateur radio shines in emergencies. Be prepared to make your contribution and work with other operators in an emergency with the ARES and AUXCOMM track. Listen to and engage with experienced local and national personalities before a crisis. Learn about what certifications, training and credentials will take you to the next level as a first responder and community asset. Go here and learn about the session: <https://bit.ly/VaSecConvSchedule>



Virginia's Peninsula Hams are Busy Bees!

The Hampton Public Service Team and Southern Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub in Hampton Virginia did not let the covid-19 pandemic stop training. A hybrid Tech level training class was conducted Jan 9th to Feb 13th. To overcome the covid-19 restrictions, the Zoom conferencing was added as an option and the physical class layout was adjusted in accordance with state and local guidelines. Over 20 students attended which was greater than our average of 6 in-person students from past classes. We had 3 states: Virginia, Florida, and North Carolina represented and many of the Virginia students were from outside the local area. We also decided to record the sessions so students could refer to them for test preparation and/or if they missed a session. Our normal class location was closed due to covid-19, so one of our members coordinated with his Church to use their annex building. The annex did not have internet, so we setup a mesh-style link to the main building about 400' away. The church will benefit from this, now permanent, addition. We cannot thank Hampton Christian Church enough for their continuing support for this class and hosting our Field Day location for the past 15 years.

Caption for the picture below: A student looks on as Robert Uiterwyk (W3AF) (left) leads a session with Chris Hosman (KC4F) (center) controlling the Zoom interface. Chuck Curtis (KN4AVP) (right) also assisted with the class. Article and photo by Tom Hite (AE4TH)

New River Valley ARC: A Great Donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund



As COVID-19 precautions would prevent our club from holding our annual Eat-and-Meet in January, it was decided in our November 2020 club meeting to take the normally allocated funds for our raffle to go towards the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. The \$200 dollars donation was received by the ARRL in February 2021.

The ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund was founded specifically to help protect our frequency allocations for ham radio operations.

For more information or personal donations go to <http://www.arrl.org/spectrum-defense-fund>.



STAFFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (SARA)
W4B – GEORGE WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY SPECIAL EVENT
AT HIS BOYHOOD HOME, STAFFORD, VIRGINIA
FEBRUARY 13, 2021

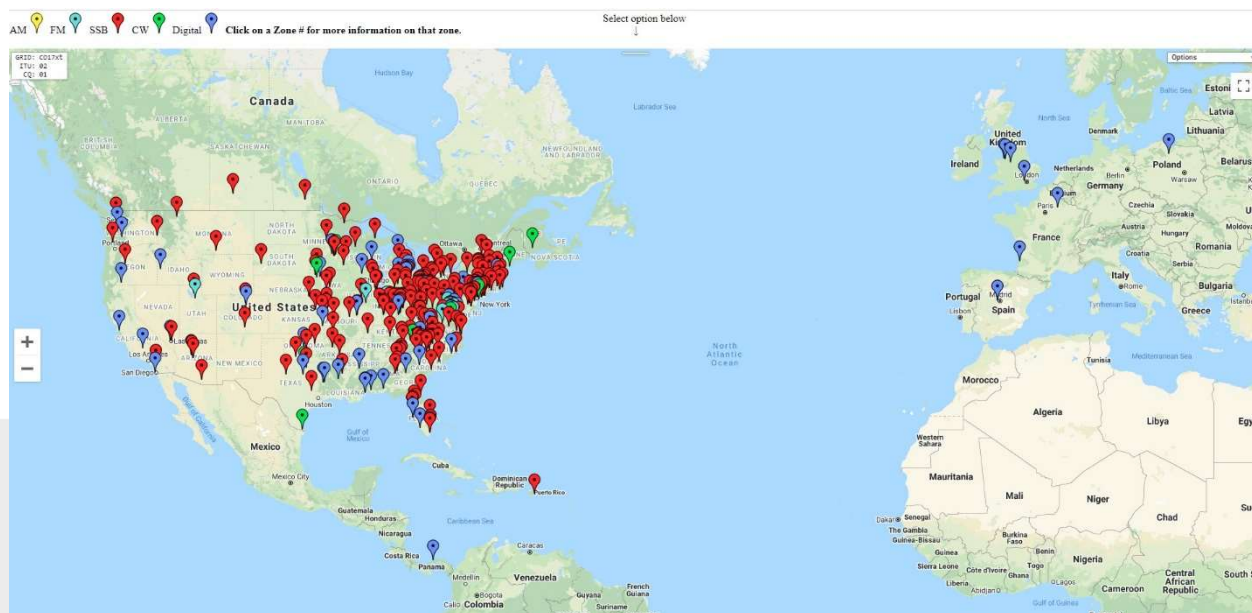
The Washington’s Birthday Special Event was originally planned on location at Ferry Farm, Washington’s Boyhood Home in Stafford County. However, due to the ice storm which occurred that day, a decision, based on weather forecasts, and wanting to err on the side of caution and prudence, was made the evening before, not to use the Ferry Farm facility, but to ask each operator to work their QTH bases. The contacts exceeded expectations!

There were 7 Operators, KI4JVE, NS4J, K3EP, KH7RC, K4CAS, N7RCE, and KB5LNC who managed a total of 312 QSOs. The group worked 42 states and 17 DXCC QSOs.

A full report can be found at WS4VA.org.

Special Event Coordinator: Katie Gilliam, K4TER

Contact Map: Jay Chamberlain, NS4J





D STAR and DMR in Ashburn, Virginia

Hello,

I have a small repeater available for use that currently supports D-STAR and DMR. You are welcome to try it out! It is only 50W and using a Ventenna on top of my HOA controlled roof.

https://www.repeaterbook.com/repeaters/details.php?state_id=51&ID=19187

<http://apps.dstarinfo.com/Repeater.aspx?Repeater=KN4LJL>

Technical details, I am using a MMDVM repeater board on top of a Raspberry Pi 3B+ running pstar, connected to two Motorola CDM1250s to a duplexer, and out to my Ventenna.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Josh Boyd, KN4LJL

QRZ.COM Adds "Master of Asia Award"

For those DX Hunters, QRZ.COM now has a "Master of Asia" award. For those interested:

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/new-qrz-award-master-of-radio-communications-asia.751257/>

Making SW VA Happy! 😊

Breaking News!

Hello Friends and Club Officials

Please pass along this W4DXCC Convention announcement to your club members and friends.

We are EXCITED to report that the W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention WILL hold its 16th convention September 24-25th, 2021!!

September 24th and 25th, 2021, Pigeon Forge, TN

We have an awesome group of presenters this year that I know will interest everyone. Friday is the Ham Radio Bootcamp where we do our best to provide the knowledge to New and Experienced Hams alike.

Saturday is the main convention where we have numerous well-known presenters, giving you the inside scoop on what is going on in amateur radio. Following each

presentation, we have time for questions if you would like to know more.

We have the leading radio and equipment manufacturers setup in the lobby with the latest gear for you to twist the knobs. More importantly you can have a one on one to ask questions about the gear with the company representative in a relaxed environment.

We have a fully operational Ham Shack setup where you can come learn and make QSO's in different modes.

It is time to make your Hotel reservations for this year's convention. You can NOT make Online reservations for this event!

Call them on the phone at 865 428-8350 and be sure to tell them you are with W4DXCC to get the special rate.

Convention Registration will open soon including Online Ticket Purchasing. Coming Soon.

Check out the Website and learn about the W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention. Go Here [W4DXCC Convention](#)

Best 73

See you soon,
Dave Anderson, K4SV
Convention leader
Dave@w4dxcc.com

Betcha this
will make
SW Virginia
Happy

--

Ham Radio Hackers: Not a Bad Thing at All!

The concept of Ham Radio originated over a hundred years ago, and as of today, it is not in an ideal position. You may have already heard people talk about how ham radio is dying, and even though there is a lot of truth to that, there are still things that can be done to save this community.

People who ruled amateur radio have gotten old, and now the young blood needs to step up to keep the tradition going. The good news is that in the past couple of years many amateur licenses have been issued and it is being revived slowly. Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, the demand for Ham radios has also increased. Many specialized online shops are currently offering [CB radios for sale](#) under leading brands in the industry. Respectfully,

<https://gisuser.com/2021/02/is-it-time-for-ham-radio-to-acknowledge-the-hacker-community/?fbclid=IwAR2BR2HbUYCavdIUeMN79CBU9wltq0ciAzVvCWsmIW8jHTnchSmDbdbnhnY>

Brendan P. O'Neill - KM4HRR
Fairfax County, Virginia AUXCOMM Coordinator
ARRL Virginia Section Assistant Emergency Coordinator
ARRL Fairfax County, Virginia Emergency Coordinator
Cellular: (732) 239-0644
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Web: aresfairfax.org

Editor's Note: Sterling Mann N0SSC will be a member of the ARRL Roundtable Forum at the Vienna Wireless Society's Virtual Hamfest on April 24, 2021. He is a member of the "Hacker Community" and has an interesting perspective for ham radio. Come and join us for an enlightening Vienna Wireless Society Virtual Hamfest on April 24. For more on Sterling N0SSC:

www.n0ssc.com

Eos: Amateur Radio Operators Help Fill Earthquake Donut Holes
From: Oliver Dully, K6OLI <km6dmf@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 09:04:33 PST

Today the American Geophysical Union (AGU) published an article in Eos by USGS and ARES LAX Northeast on how amateur radio operators can help fill the information donut hole by providing DYFI reports via Winlink.

The full article is available here:

<https://eos.org/science-updates/amateur-radio-operators-help-fill-earthquake-donut-holes>

We would like to thank the USGS, the Winlink Development Team, ARES LAX and our partner ARES groups throughout the United States whose work and dedication is making this collaboration a success!

Please like and share the tweet below.

-- and yes, that is Bob WB6YJJ's qth in that photo



https://twitter.com/AGU_Eos/status/1363862372155338757

Good Evening,

The included article discuss how USGS uses ARES and Winlink to receive notification of earthquake. I hope the link works. It is a good article.

<https://eos.org/science-updates/amateur-radio-operators-help-fill-earthquake-donut-holes>

Darryl Fowler, KD8JQE



Williamsburg AARC Honors New YL General Class!

Congratulations to Patti KB4PAT who passed her General exam today under the watchful eye of the WAARC VE team. Led by Kerry NH2A, our club VE Coordinator, and VEs Pat KA4PAB, Jim AF4QJ and Jack KN4VSS the team gathered at the NH2A/KH2FX QTH for the session. The WAARC VE program has grown as has the club over the past three years and during COVID our testing methodology has changed from large group sessions to smaller more frequent targeted sessions. Looking forward to hearing Patti on HF now.

Editor's Note: WAARC has eight (8) YL Extras among its membership! They will be represented by Toby KL0SS (President) and Cynthia K4CEF at the ARRL Club Round Table sponsored by the Vienna Wireless Society's Virtual Hamfest which takes place on April 24, 2021.

**ARRL TEST SESSION – Sponsored by Fauquier Amateur Radio Association (FARA)
Warrenton-Fauquier Airport, 1533 Iris Trail, Midland VA
FEBRUARY 27, 2021**

ARRL VEs AND VOLUNTEERS

On February 27, 2021 multiple clubs participated at an ARRL test session: Fauquier Amateur Radio Association (FARA), Stafford Amateur Radio Association (SARA), Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club (RVARC), and Catastrophic Amateur Tactical Squad (KC4TS).

TEST SESSION RESULTS

Total of 49 New and/or Upgraded Licenses:

24 New Technicians

**8 New and 12 Upgraded Generals
Extra**

5 Upgrades to



ONE OF FARA's NEW TECHNICIANS

KO4NLR Bri with her dad KO4IUM Nic



The next QSO Today Expo is approaching fast, taking place on March 13-14, 2021. This Expo will be even better with many new speakers, [Build-A-Thons](#), panel discussions, and much more. Early Bird discount tickets are now available and include entry for the Live 2-day period plus the 30-day on-demand period. Registration can be found at the [Expo Website](#).

The ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio® in the United States, is a QSO Today Expo Partner.

At the Expo, there is something for everyone:

- Learn from a packed line-up of 80+ renowned ham radio speakers such as Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on “My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted”; Michael Foerster, W0IH, on “Using the Arduino In Your Shack”; and Ron Jones, K7RJ, on “3D Printer Basics”.
- Take part in [Live virtual kit building workshops](#). Kits will be available for purchase and delivered prior to the Expo so you can build from the convenience of your home.
- Walk through the virtual exhibit hall filled with popular amateur radio suppliers. Watch live product demos of the latest equipment. New video technology will be used to provide a better experience for attendees to engage with exhibitors.



- **Meet up with fellow hams in virtual lounges using the latest, new video technology.**

You can participate from the convenience of your home without spending a dime on travel! So, if you have never been to an in-person Hamfest, you can participate in the Expo and get the same benefits. The platform simulates a full convention experience.

Flexradio is the Expo's Platinum Sponsor and Gold sponsors as of this time include Elecraft, RFinder, Quicksilver Radio, and CSI.

Come and join thousands of ham radio operators - go to <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/> now to learn more and get registered!

We look forward to having you join us at Expo for an amazing and engaging experience.

As seen on the Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club's Reflector:

On Feb 28, 2021, at 3:12 PM, Jonathan Robertson KM4HOC <jtroberson7@gmail.com> wrote:

I made a phone contact in Germany on 80 meters earlier and on his QRZ page he had a great quote:

"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."



Ed Gibbs KW4GF

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ARRL VA Section Public Information Coordinator

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