



VIRGINIA SECTION HAM RADIO NEWS QSL! #24

April, 2021

Vienna Wireless Society: 2021 Dayton Hamvention Club of the Year!



Contact: Harry Mamaux – K3NF, Public Information Liaison, k3nf@cox.net

Vienna Wireless Society Selected as 2021 Amateur Radio Club of the Year!

7 March 2021

The Vienna Wireless Society (VWS), of Vienna, VA was selected as the 2021 Amateur Radio Club of the Year by the Dayton Hamvention Awards Committee <https://hamvention.org/event-details/awards/> VWS was selected from nominees from around the U.S.

VWS, founded in 1963, was highlighted for its 58 years of service to the amateur radio community. With its 280 members, the club is the largest such organization in the DC and Northern Virginia area, and focuses on youth education, public service and promoting the overall growth of radio through the DC area and around the world. VWS is affiliated with the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) (www.arrl.org), the national organization for Amateur Radio.

The important Service work done by the men and women of VWS includes providing communications support to key events, including the Marine Corps



Marathon and events in the Town of Vienna. The club provides emergency radio support to local and regional Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fairfax County Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the newly announced Fairfax County AUXCOMM (auxiliary communication) initiative supporting local and regional agencies.

Their active antenna installation team installs, removes, and replaces antennas; helping members get their stations on the air. Their mentor team, called “Elmers”, encourages and provides equipment, guidance, and support to newly licensed hams.

The club operates two radio repeaters in Fairfax County, one of which has coverage across the DC metro area. This radio repeater was used for situational awareness during the 2021 Presidential Inauguration at the request of the District of Columbia. During the annual Field Day operating contest, VWS has consistently finishes in the top five clubs in the nation.

VWS offers licensing classes, youth outreach, workshops, and four educational programs a month at two monthly meetings. On April 24th, the club will host, virtually, the Virginia Section Convention of the ARRL for hams from around the tri-state area, and the U.S.

Andrew Straatveit, K3NHT, President of VWS, said “We are honored by this recognition. Our team enjoys the hobby and takes pride and pleasure in helping others. It is great to be awarded something for having fun.”

For more information about Vienna Wireless Society or if you are interested in becoming an amateur radio operator, go to www.viennawireless.net



Vienna Wireless Society, 2019 Field Day

VWS ON HAM NATION- MARCH 31,2021

Start at 8:16 on the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=758kcYJWLJY>



Something for Everybody

Vienna Wireless Society Virtual Hamfest

April 24,2021

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>



VN SCHEDULE FROM VIRGINIA NET BEACON, EDITOR: STEVE KRUM KV4AN

Table (1) shows the weekly schedule for the VN, which meets daily at 1900 local time on 3568.0 KHz CW. We need volunteers for the OPEN skeds. Also, please fill-in if the scheduled NCS or 4RN representative is not present.

| SKED | NCS | 4RN |
|------|--------|--------|
| SUN | WB4FDT | OPEN |
| MON | K4VWK | K4VWK |
| TUE | KV4AN | OPEN |
| WED | W4IVF | W4IVF |
| THU | WA0WHT | WA0WHT |
| FRI | KV4AN | OPEN |
| SAT | OPEN | OPEN |

Table 1. VN Weekly Schedule.

Table (2) shows the VN net activity for the last three months.

| | NOV | DEC | JAN |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| QNI | 150 | 154 | 164 |
| QND | 258 | 273 | 252 |
| LISTED | 26 | 37 | 17 |
| CLEARED | 18 | 33 | 15 |
| SESSIONS | 30 | 31 | 31 |

Table 2. VN Net Activity.



Sterling Park ARC Novel Youth Plaque Solution!

As the Youth Plaque for the VA QSO Party has traditionally gone to a licensed ham, Sterling Park ARC has sponsored a GOTA Plaque for the first time. Now an aspiring youth ham can apply for high score honors working GOTA prior to receiving their ticket. This is a novel way to interest the young into our hobby! Nice job, Sterling Park. Thanks to Theresa Heartney, KG4TVM, for suggesting the GOTA Plaque.

Maritime Radio Day is Set for April

03/08/2021

The 10th anniversary of Maritime Radio Day ([MRD](#)) will take place from 1200 UTC on April 14 to 2200 UTC on April 15. The annual event commemorates nearly 90 years of wireless service for seafarers. Radio amateurs and shortwave listeners are welcome and should [register](#) in advance by April 1. Stations such as coastal radio stations and ships may participate only if operated by former commercial or Navy operators, or by radio technicians who worked on the installation and/or maintenance of naval equipment. Former Merchant Marine Radio Operators or former Ship's Electronic Technicians are encouraged to participate.

All traffic must occur around the following international naval frequencies on amateur radio bands: 1824 kHz; 3520 kHz; 7020 kHz; 10,118 kHz; 14,052 kHz; 21,052 kHz, and 28,052 kHz. The primary working frequency is 14,052 kHz. There is no power limit. Participants exchange QSA (signal strength, 1-5), QRK (readability, 1-5), name, call sign of last or favorite ship/aircraft/maintenance company, and "additionally a tr, msg and/or a QTC, if you like."

C

Submit an [email](#) or letter detailing stations worked to Rolf Marschner, Narzissenweg 10 53359, Rheinbach, Germany.



Alexandria ARES' Look at ARES

By

Rick Bunn N4ASX

1 – You do not need any special training to volunteer for ARES. However, after volunteering you will need to complete FEMA IS-100 via the internet and it takes about 30 minutes. There is a training plan if you want to learn more about emergency communications and management.

2 – If you do volunteer it is a commitment. We don't have to many real emergencies, but when we do, we need people we can count on.

3 – Volunteering across jurisdictions – Many volunteers when using the ARES Connect website volunteered for several organizations with the idea that they could keep tabs on all that was going on. The problem then is that several organizations believe that those volunteers are available to them in an emergency. ONLY volunteer for ONE ARES group!

4 – The majority of operations use 2-meter FM. One exception is here in Alexandria, the only way to support the hospital is with D-STAR. This is not an issue for some of our volunteers as the city has purchased 10 ID-51A HTs and 7 of them are not issued. Volunteers can borrow them and use them for a year at a time. Each year they need to be checked by the EC.

5 – ARES members are the first operators called for public service events like the G.W. Birthday Parade, Marine Corps Marathon, The St. Patrick's Day Parade, and other



activities. Working public service activities is great training in all aspects of what we would do for an emergency.

6 – The public has a diverse view of amateur radio. Some understand that it's a hobby with the ability to perform great services in an emergency, but very rarely do we see amateur radio on the news. The other side is our antenna are not welcome in neighborhoods, we are accused of causing interference to commercial devices. Recently, amateur radio was tied in with the protests on January 6th at the Capital. Our image and support depend on the public opinion of our hobby. One might say that ARES and Public Service communications is one way to improve that image.

**FB SOTA Share from Randy WB7URZ
Member of the Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club.**

I found this article about Summits on the Air and thought that now that the weather is getting warmer, maybe some of you might be interested in getting out and getting high! ;-)) I have some spots in mind if anyone is interested in putting together an outdoor radio adventure.

I think these locations could work good for those interested in working Satellites as well..

<https://www.outsideonline.com/2421479/ham-radio-hobby-summit>

DC Stories: This is VEEEERRRYYYY Interesting!!!

The Strange Story of DC's Lost AM Radio Station Still Transmitting
Inauguration Road Closures From 2013

<https://www.thedrive.com/tech/39549/the-strange-story-of-dcs-lost-am-radio-station-still-transmitting-inauguration-road-closures-from-2013?xid=emailshare>

From the ARRL: Novel Idea!!!! Who in VA has done this?

(Just in: Take a look at the flyer at the end of the newsletter)

North Carolina Radio Amateurs Adapt Tailgating Hamfest to the COVID-19 Pandemic


With many in-person hamfests canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some radio amateurs in Raleigh, North Carolina, have come up with a way to adapt with a tailgate hamfest in an unused shopping center parking area. The event grew out of the so-called [Ham Radio Taco Thursdays](#), begun many years ago by ARRL Life Member Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ.

Pitegoff had to put his event on hold when the pandemic erupted. It was suggested that hams could gather and socialize at a safe distance by having a Taco Thursday with the taco truck outside in an adjacent empty parking lot. That event was a success, with participants remaining at their vehicles and bringing their own chairs.

That success inspired holding a tailgate hamfest in the same spot, and it's now turned into a monthly event, called the [AB4OZ Hamfest](#).

Pitegoff said Taco Thursday started collecting more people -- up to 15 or so -- and when Taco Bell closed due to the pandemic, the event moved to a Thursday on-the-air net, with one requirement -- that participants could not talk about COVID-19.





The tailgate hamfest was established at the new location and held once a month on Saturday at 10 AM.

"I think this is a great, uplifting, and positive experience for all of us hams to get out and socialize," participant Charles Murray, KI4DCR, said. "We might not be able to have a big hamfest, but these micro tailgate hamfests might be the future for a good while. I've met a lot of good people. There's a lot of cool stuff out here. The weather's great, you know, and there's plenty of space for everybody to be socially distanced. I think it's fantastic." -- *Thanks to Martin Brossman, KI4CFS*

Judi's Easy Chicken Pho

By Judi LeHuquet N4JDI

Ingredients

3/4-inch (2 cm) section ginger

2 medium-large green onions

1 very small (.5 oz | 15 g) bunch parsley sprigs

1 1/2 teaspoons coriander seeds

1 whole clove

3 1/2 to 4 cups (840 ml to 1 l) low-sodium chicken broth

2 cups (480 ml) water

6 to 8 ounces (180 to 225 g) boneless, skinless chicken breast or thighs


About 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt

5 ounces (150 g) dried Maifun rice noodles

2 to 3 teaspoons fish sauce

About 1/2 teaspoon organic sugar, or 1 teaspoon maple syrup
(optional)

Pepper (optional)



Optional extras: Bean sprouts, mint sprigs, Thai basil, parsley leaves, lime wedges, thinly- sliced chili peppers

Method

Prepare the broth ingredients: Peel then slice the ginger into 4 or 5 coins. Smack with the flat side of a knife or meat mallet; set aside. Thinly slice the green parts of the green onion to yield 2 to 3 tablespoons; set aside for garnish. Cut the leftover sections into pinkie-finger lengths, bruise, then add to the ginger. Coarsely chop the leafy tops of the parsley to yield 2 tablespoons; set aside for garnish. Set the remaining parsley sprigs aside. **Toast the broth ingredients:** In a 3- to 4-quart (3 to 4 l) pot, toast the coriander seeds and clove over medium heat until fragrant, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the ginger and green onion sections. Stir for about 30 seconds, until aromatic. **Add the broth and bring to a simmer:** Slide the pot off heat, wait 15 seconds or so to briefly cool, then pour in the broth. Return the pot to the burner, then add the water, cilantro sprigs, chicken, and salt. Bring to a boil over high heat, then lower the heat to gently simmer. **Remove the chicken from the broth once cooked:** After 5 to 10 minutes of simmering, the chicken should be firm and cooked through (press on it and it should slightly yield). **Simmer the broth:** Continue to simmer the broth without the chicken for another 15 to 20 minutes (for a total of 30 minutes simmering time). **Shred the chicken:** Transfer the chicken to a bowl, flush with cold water to arrest the cooking, then drain. Let cool, then cut or shred into bite-size pieces. Cover loosely to prevent drying. SEP **[Emma's note: If the chicken isn't quite cooked through when you begin to shred it, just split it into a few pieces and put it back in the broth for another few minutes until cooked through. The split pieces will quickly cook through.]** **Soak the rice noodles:** Soak the rice noodles in hot water until pliable and opaque. Drain, rinse, and set aside. **Strain the broth:** When the broth is done, pour it through a fine-mesh strainer positioned over a 2-quart (2-liter) pot; line the strainer with muslin for super clear broth. Discard the solids. You should have about 4 cups. Season with fish sauce and sugar (or maple syrup), if needed, to create a strong savory-sweet note.





**From Dr. Joe Palsa, K3WRY,
VA Section Manager:**

Virginia Section 2nd Quarter 2021 New -Letter Report

Well, here we are surviving the first quarter of 2021. With a new President, new Covid 19 Vaccines, additional stimulus money, etc., the world around us is moving forward, albeit slowly. Covid 19 virus vaccines are now in full swing, however we are still struggling with getting the vaccines to many underserved, geographical locations, but this is being worked on. The good news is that the deaths as well as hospital numbers on the decline. And the XYL and myself finally received our two PFIZER shots.

The ham community has cancelled virtually all hamfests and in person event for 2021. But I must report that the creative genius of hams have created a new virtual world of meetings, hamfests, webinars, podcasts, Expo's, etc. Many of the cancelled hamfest have been recreated by these organizations in the virtual world.

Finally, ARISS is back on the air. When one of spacewalks during which cable replacements and new cable replacements were done, they lost the connection between the outside antenna and the radios. (See it happens even to professionals, HI HI). It has been fixed now. Also, after 7 years of silence, the Delfi-n3Xt satellite is again transmitting a signal 145.70 MHz and 145.93MHz, and high-speed data 2405 MHz. The inverting SSB/CW transponder has an uplink passband of 435.530-453.570 LSB and a downlink passband of 145.880-145.920 MHz USB.

Check the ARRL Home page for all the great educational opportunities. ARRL Podcasts, Learning Network webinars, etc.

ARES as noted previously, the database CONNECT is still winding down for those that had used its capabilities. A new database program is being developed and will be announced when decisions have been made.

The Red Cross exercises held with ARES and other EMMCOM groups held last year as well as last March 11, 2021 were all more successful each time with over 1,500 participants. There will be another Nationwide exercise



on May 8, 2021. The growth of Winlink communications and show successes with message handling is coming more and more to the forefront of EMMCOM needs for all kinds of emergencies and disasters. Winlink Wednesday's has grown into Winlink Thursday's group and many other local and regional exercises.

Blizzards, flooding, tornados, etc., extreme weather causing loss of power, etc. activated many local ARES groups all over the south and Midwest areas.

Virginia ARES program is as previously noted, is a work in progress, but I must add that the new district alignment has brought some new DEC and EC appointments. Work is still in progress with local government recognitions.

Our new Virginia Web site WWW.ARRLVA.COM IS GROWING WELL. We have had many compliments about it. The site contains, section news, programs, club information, ARES, and many more sections for all your Virginia ham announcements, information, etc.. In addition, a Virginia Section newsletter had been developed and is distributed each month by our Section PIO.

The Vienna Wireless Society K4HTA has been selected Club of the year.

<https://forums.grz.com/index.php?threads/2021-hamvention-awards-announcement.753209/>

Checking the ARRL web site for upcoming contests shows over 25 contests just for the rest of March. All these contests give anyone the opportunity to gain new countries, contacts, etc, even if you do not enter the contests.

REMEMBER, the new distracted driver law has gone in effect on Jan 1, 2021. Hams are exempt, I encourage you to keep a copy of the law, in your vehicle, which I sent earlier.

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-818.2/>



From Bud Hippisley, W2RU, Roanoke Division Director

Contrary to what you may have heard or read, the collection of application fees for the amateur radio service and certain other services will NOT begin on April 19, 2021.

Although April 19, 2021 is the date the rules in the FCC Report and Order adopted last December generally take effect – i.e., one month after the R&O was published in the March 19, 2021 Federal Register – certain parts of those rules, including collection of the application fees for the amateur radio service, will NOT begin on that date.

The effective date for new amateur radio fees has not yet been established. The FCC explicitly states in the published Notice that the fees will not take effect until:

- * the requisite notice has been provided to Congress; AND**
- * the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated; AND**
- * the Commission publishes [FUTURE] notice(s) in the Federal Register announcing the effective date of such rules.**

The League's counsel for FCC matters estimates that the effective start date for collecting the fees will be sometime this summer, but regardless of the exact timing we will have advance notice.

**Bud Hippisley, W2RU
Director, Roanoke Division**

Commented [A1]:



Bill Conkling NR4C

Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club (SK)

By Dan Ewart WG4F

Bill Conkling, NR4C/SK got his initial start in electronics in the 1960's when he got deeply involved in building and operating radio-controlled airplanes. After obtaining an FCC Class C license he enjoyed building several 27 MHz six- and ten-channel transmitters and receivers for his fleet of planes.

In 2002 a friend who had just received his Amateur Radio Technician class license sparked Bill's interest in ham radio. Bill received his Technician class license in April 2002, with the KG4TFF call sign. He quickly upgraded to General and Extra class licenses becoming AG4YQ and then NR4C. Upon first becoming a licensed Amateur Radio operator, Bill joined both the Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club (WAARC) and the Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (MPARC). Over the years Bill held several elected offices in both clubs, serving as Vice President of WAARC in 2003, President in 2010 and later Director at Large. Dividing his time between WAARC and MPARC, he was elected Vice President of MPARC in 2012 and served as President for two different terms. His affiliation with the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) Colonial Chapter began in April 2007, leading the chapter for several years.

Bill became a Volunteer Examiner in both the ARRL and W5YI Volunteer Examiner systems, heading up the W5YI program at MPARC for several years as well as assisting the Hampton Public Service Group and the WAARC testing programs.

Bill became a key player in WAARC's participation in the annual Field Day event in 2004 and in WAARC's annual three Historic Triangle Special Events stations beginning in 2005. He was a major part of those three annual Special Events. For many years he coordinated with the National Park Service for the Jamestown Island and Yorktown Battlefield events and with Colonial Williamsburg for the July 4th event and served as the primary WAARC point of contact with both



agencies and ensured announcements were published in the QST magazine and a smooth operation occurred on event day. He was a mainstay for those events, always present, lending his own equipment from battery cables to logging computers, antennas, and most generously his state-of-the-art transceiver many times.

His contributions as an Elmer include coordinating Morse Code classes, introducing the club to an antenna support launching "spud gun" with several members copying his design, suppling 3-D printed parts for their launchers, encouraging members in their home brewing efforts, supporting the club's Builders Group, and providing impromptu lessons in cable connectors and many other topics.

He was a frequent participant in Amateur Radio support of local community events, along with providing updates on club events and serving as the club's official "breakfastmeister" coordinating weekly Saturday morning breakfasts and Wednesday lunches with local restaurants.

For his longtime support of the Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio club, our local amateur radio community, and ham radio in general, Bill was the second recipient of the club's Jim Bailey KB4ZIN award in 2019.





Catch 'Em If You Can!!!!

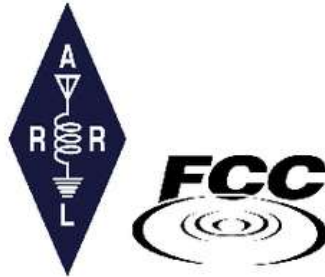
January 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Report

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

In January 2021, Volunteer Monitors reported 2,277 hours monitoring the HF frequencies and 2,162 hours monitoring VHF frequencies and above.


The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator issued 11 *Advisory Notices*. An *Advisory Notice* is an attempt to resolve rule violation issues informally before FCC intervention:

- Operators in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Centralia, Washington; Edmond, Oklahoma; Fontana, California, and Orleans, Massachusetts, received advisories concerning operation outside their license class.
- An operator in Thorn Hill, Tennessee, received an advisory concerning interference.
- An operator in Ridgely, Tennessee, received an advisory regarding excessive bandwidth.
- Operators in Miami, Florida; Friendly, West Virginia; Collinsville, Illinois, and Keansburg, New Jersey, received advisories concerning station ID issues.
- An operator in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received an advisory regarding improper use of a linear amplifier.



ARRL had two meetings in January with FCC Enforcement Bureau personnel.
-- Thanks to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, VM Program Administrator





I usually do not print technical articles, but this is a goodie!
(Maybe because I must use an attic antenna!)

Printed in the VA Net Beacon Newsletter By

Steve Krumm KV4AN-Editor

TECHNICAL ARTICLE

Mastering the Condo Challenge with a Magnetic Loop Antenna

by Paul, K4MSG

Background:

In 2018 my wife and I downsized to a 55-older condominium apartment in Loudoun County, VA. While we love the location (close to Dulles, great for travel, just lock and leave!) ham radio is a bit of a challenge. Condo association bylaws (which prospective buyers must agree to and sign) specify that outside antennas are prohibited, including one sticking out of a window. Also, the buildings are filled with electrical noise due to elevators, fans, lighting, a wireless system, homeowner's computers, appliances, etc. Although an owner can presumably use any type of antenna inside his/her own apartment, the brick/concrete, steel, and aluminum building construction - with thick double pane glass windows - combine to attenuate incoming signals. Additionally, typical ham antenna choices (shortened dipole on a sun porch or mobile whip near a window) are sensitive to electrical noise.

Choosing an antenna:

After some research I chose a magnetic loop antenna (shown in Plate 1) as the best solution, primarily because it is compact in size, less sensitive to ELECTRICAL fields (hence the emphasis on "magnetic" in the name) and directional with a deep null broadside to the plane of the loop.



One downside is that large values of capacitance are required to resonate the loop, especially on 80m. Because of high voltages in the loop circuit, the common use of “receiver-type” variable capacitors with close-spaced plates results in transmit power level being restricted to 10 to 15 Watts to avoid arcing in the variable capacitor. Also, radiation efficiency on low bands is poor, typically 1% for a single-turn 80m mag-loop. After building several homebrew mag-loops (one using a High Voltage variable capacitor capable of handling 75W) and one low power commercial loop, I bought a unit



Plate 1. MLA-S (MMT) v.3 Loop Antenna used by K4MSG.

manufactured in the Czech Republic that is compact, handles 40W and covers 80-10m. This antenna uses an advanced design that incorporates the electrical characteristics of the internal components into the resonant circuit. You can see it at [MLA - S \(MMT\) v.3](#) |



Loop2ER - Magnetic L Antennas. or on my QRZ page.

80m Net Operation. 80m is my nighttime “band of choice” because of high random electrical noise on 40m. With a 9x28 south-facing second-floor Sun Porch, operation in VN and 4RN is possible a decent percentage of the time. Receive signals are relatively good from ESE to WSW and with the loop “edge-on” to the south the electrical noise is significantly reduced compared to a dipole or whip. Depending on band conditions I seem to be heard reasonably well by most VN stations and about half of the 4RN stations (which covers VA southward to Puerto Rico). EAN is more problematic because most stations are NORTH of me and I have no northern “window access”. On occasion, I have been able to check in to the daytime Hit & Bounce Net (HBN) on 40m, but only because I have enough ESE window exposure to be heard by W1KX and KW1U (who are northeast of me, in New England). Regarding antenna radiation efficiency, consider this: I am perfectly matched (<1.2:1 VSWR) to the antenna feed point and can drive it with 40W. At 1% radiation efficiency on 80m I am radiating ~400mW through a thick, double-pane glass window with aluminum frame. A typical ham running 100w to a dipole will have a radiation efficiency of about 50% and will radiate 50w. The difference between 400mw and 50w is around 21dB, or just a bit over 4 S-units. I assume that if I hear another net station at S9, the BEST that he/she will hear me is S-5. If he/she is S-7 I will be S-3, and the odds are that under typical band conditions he/she may have difficulty copying much beyond my callsign. Of course, a S9+ signal like W4YE means that Buddy may sometimes (depending on conditions) hear me as strong as S7 or maybe even S8 (but rarely!).

Another “condo issue” is that on some bands a power level of 30W or higher can “trip” RFbased “touch” lighting. To prevent interference to my neighbors, I installed “clamp-on” ferrites on numerous apartment wiring including all power cords on the Sun Porch (installed on both ends, equipment, and outlet), my transceiver, PC, TVs, DVR,

Xfinity boxes, audio cables, etc. I’ve subsequently never had (or heard of) any neighbor complaints while running 40W CW on 80, 40, 30, or 20m. And the lights don’t trip! I feel that I’ve found a way to successfully participate in traffic nets and occasionally handle traffic despite the restrictions and technical issues. Do more with less!

Stafford Amateur Radio Association



Stafford ARA- Preparing for February 27th ARRL Test Session at Warrenton-Fauquier Airport - Chrystal KN4KPJ and K4TER Katie



Catch 'EM If You Can: Part 2

February 2021 Volunteer Monitor Program Report

03/15/2021

The Volunteer Monitor (VM) Program is a joint initiative between ARRL and the FCC to enhance compliance in the Amateur Radio Service.

To date, Volunteer Monitors during February reported 1,762 hours monitoring the HF frequencies and 2,158 hours monitoring VHF frequencies and above. The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator issued 10 Advisory Notices. An Advisory Notice is an attempt to resolve rule violation issues informally before requesting FCC intervention.

- Operators in Holdenville, Oklahoma; Luzerne, Michigan; Miami, Florida, and Merrick, New York, received Advisories concerning operation outside their license class.
- Operators in Megalia, California; Jefferson, Georgia; and Redway, California, received Advisories concerning interference to repeater systems and HF net operations.
- An operator in Mansford, Arkansas, received an Advisory regarding failure to properly identify.
- An operator in Charlottesville, Virginia, received an Advisory concerning improper bandwidth that resulted in interference.
- A desert racing association in Odessa, Texas, received a warning about the use of amateur 2-meter frequencies for racing events.

The Volunteer Monitor Coordinator had two meetings during February with FCC Enforcement Bureau personnel. — *Thanks to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, VM Program Coordinator*



Spark Gap Times-December 2020 No.3

Contributed By

Phil Sager WB4FDT- Executive Secretary


Old Old Timers Club

(a former VA Section Newsletter Editor)

TWO TALES OF THE WIRELESS PIONEERS By Henry Dickow (SK)

Part 2

“BRASS-POUNDERS” The expression “brass pounder” is credited by Marconi Wireless operator C.J. Weaver of the S.S. Philadelphia right after the turn of the century. Telegraph keys were generally made of brass except for the lever, which was hardened steel. The first Brass Pounders didn't pound Brass...in fact, the first telegraphers weren't required to have a knowledge of code! Incoming signals were printed on a paper tape, like the well-known ticker tape, by a machine called an “inker”. The receiving operator then converted the incoming characters into letters of the alphabet, with the aid of a codebook. This was quite slow, and it was quickly apparent that “brass-pounders” could achieve much higher speeds and save much time. The early wireless telegraph key was a crude and massive device. It resembled a pump handle in appearance. Some called it a “pump”, others dubbed it “the grasshopper”. The old wireless keys were difficult to manipulate. They were required to make or break a heavy current, and some keys had large cooling fins. Some keys were designed to fit special conditions, such as flameproof keys used on early submarines and aircraft, to prevent fire and sparks. 5 In the earliest days the dots and dashes of the code were of necessity sent slowly. The unsteady, rasping sound of the wireless spark was such that the code characters would have been unrecognizable if sent at too great a speed. Thus, the first wireless messages were transmitted at a rate of only 10 or so words per minute. As technology moved ahead, so did the code speed and by WW1 most operating speeds of 20-25 wpm were required of ship operators. A few wireless and telegraph men were born to the telegraph key. Some had a sending style so rhythmic, so steady, so completely devoid of error, that the product of their nimble fingers was like music to the ear. Strangely enough, some of the best telegraphers were musicians! A few wireless men became famous. Thomas Edison started out as a wireless operator. In his later years Edison was nearly totally deaf, and was able to communicate with his friend, Harvey Firestone, another former telegrapher, by tapping on Firestone's knee with his finger. Another youngster pounding brass for the



Marconi Company, worked his way up to the highest level of the company, correctly foresaw the huge potential in radio broadcasting to the public, and in later years again foresaw the potential in television, was David Sarnoff, who became President of RCA. \

Another name needs to be noted here, Ted McElroy, was able to send a receive at a speed of 76 words-per-minute, a world record, sending with his Vibroplex bug and recording what he had received with his typewriter. His sending style was so perfect that, when reduced to normal speeds of between 25 to 40 wpm, was indistinguishable from the manual.

How About This for a Quickly Planned Special Event?

World Amateur Radio Day is April 18

World Amateur Radio Day is right around the corner! Let's make a big splash to celebrate the opportunities for service, skill, and discovery that make being hams so much fun and rewarding! Start spreading the word among your radio clubs, Field Organization volunteers, community information outlets, and with local media.

ARRL has more World Amateur Radio Day resources to help PIOs and PICs, including newly introduced graphics and flyers.

Poster or flyer

[World Amateur Radio Day poster](#) (8-1/2 x 11 JPG)

[Día Mundial de la Radioafición poster](#) (8-1/2 x 11 JPG)

Special thanks to ARRL member Anne Frank, KD9LRB of Deer Park, Wisconsin, featured in these posters!

Social media and website graphics (JPG)

440 x 220 [English](#) [Spanish](#)

468 x 200 [English](#) [Spanish](#)

608 x 259 [English](#) [Spanish](#)

700 x 225 [English](#) [Spanish](#)

1080 x 1080 [English](#) [Spanish](#)

1200 x 628 [English](#) [Spanish](#)

5599 x 1566 banner [English](#) [Spanish](#)



Backgrounder and Media Advisory Template
[2021 World Amateur Radio Day backgrounder](#) (PDF)

[2021 World Amateur Radio Day media advisory](#) (WORD template)

[Día Mundial de la Radioafición 2021 transfondo](#) (PDF)

[Día Mundial de la Radioafición 2021 aviso a los medios](#) (WORD template)

Tailgating Flyers On The Next Two Pages.

Take a Look!



FREE

OLD FASHION

HAM RADIO JUNK IN THE TRUNK SALE

April 17, 2021 8:00 A. M. until 12:00 Noon

1577 Wilroy Road-Suffolk, VA 23434

River Creek Executive Center Parking Lot

100 Space parking lot.

MASK REQUIRED

1 PARKING SPACE FOR EACH VEHICLE

BRING YOUR OWN TABLE AND CHAIR

NO FOOD AVAILABLE

NO ADVANCED REGISTRATION

\$\$ Donations at the Door \$\$

UNSPONSORED EVENT-WA4JUO



The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

**Is happy to announce they are hosting a Ham
Radio Tail Gate Party**



**Saturday, June 12, 2021 8 am to
2 pm Rain or shine**

**Across from Signal Hill Park in Manassas Park, VA
38° 45.2710'N, 77° 26.2800'W**

**Signal Hill Park address is 9300 Signal View Dr. Manassas Park – the field is
located on Signal View Drive across the street from the park entrance**

**The field is on the east side of Signal View Drive just past the National Monument for
the First Battle of Manassas**

**Admission \$5 per person over 18
\$20 per vehicle to set up and sell All
attendees will park in the field
More information www.w4ovh.net**



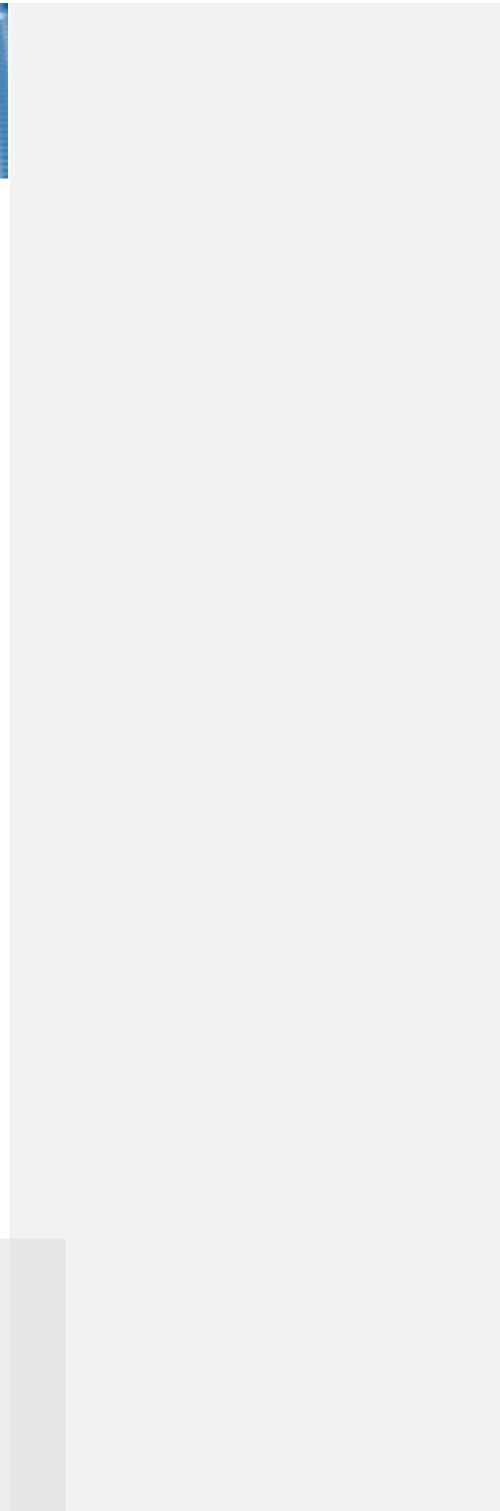
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