



**VIRGINIA SECTION HAM RADIO NEWS QSL! #28**

**August, 2021**

## **THE THREATS LOOM OVERHEAD**

**by Dwight M. Rohr W4SPJ-PIO**

**In these times of uncertainty are we prepared? We have a storehouse of information on Amateur Radio through ARRL, but do we read these materials and are ready to implement their strategies in case of a terrorist attack or war?**

**New and continuing struggles between nations continue daily. Topics of sovereignty, economic superiority, and political power grabs seem to be the headlines of the day in our national news. But will the next conflict come in the form of a nuclear blast? Or will there be something non-conventional to be ground zero in our future battles?**

**Not even the worst of enemies want to blow the world and themselves off the earth with nuclear bombs when sabotaging key power grids, satellites and water supplies would be a better alternative. We all want to live, but severely crippling the opposition would be a better power play and create more opportunity to gain power over other sovereign countries. Such successful attacks could throw countries back more than 100 years in their ability to function.**

**ARES, and other amateur stations can set the pace in community and club awareness. We have talked about alternative electric back-ups and other systems like morse code when conventional utilities fail, and they are likely to happen in the future unless we become fully prepared today. Preventive measures taken today will insure some means of protection for tomorrow. My dad who was a factory engineer called this preventive maintenance.**



**We all as an individual as a group, must regularly review our strengths and weaknesses in the event of loss of utilities and other means of disruption, I am thoroughly convinced that many of our communities will experience chaos in the event of a major disruption. But we can minimize the panic by having all systems in place and working. Amateur Radio can and must be always ready!**

**\*Dwight Rohr is a veteran News Director and Radio Network Anchor during his 52-year career in the Mid-Atlantic States.**



**Pic with accompanying article on the previous page:**

(Picture of antenna maintenance and tuning at W4COV)

# Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club

## **Hamfest**

- Ham Radio, Electronics & Computer parts + Paraphernalia
- Equipment Testing before Leaving
- On-Site Parking
- Get-On-The-Air Station
- Food Consession - 8 AM

36 Tables (U Reserve for Hamfest) 6' x 2½'  
30 Tailgate Spaces Set-Up Opens - 6:30 AM  
**Hamfest** - 8 AM - 1 PM **Auction** 2 - 5  
Limited Electric Hookups

**Wanted**

**Buyers  
Sellers**

**Free  
Admission  
for ALL**

**Auction  
20 Tables  
(U Reserve for Auction)**

- License Testing - 10 AM (free)
- Hourly Prizes
- Grand Prize

**Dealer Set-Up:  
Aug 6 4 - 7 PM**

**Saturday, August 7**  
**Gospel Light Baptist Church**  
6307 Cloverdale Rd. Roanoke, VA  
3.6 mi from 150 S / 1.7 mi from 460

**Educational  
Demos**

**Talk-in  
146.985  
-600  
T 107.2**

### **For More Information:**

**Chief Co-ordinator: Kevin N3ABC**  
kevin@kevinscottonline.com

**Table Reservations: Bob K4BNZ**  
telch1@aol.com or Regis KF4PIY  
703-873-7794

**NO pets, pornography, or weapons / Handicap Friendly**



## **Board Creates Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee**

At its just-concluded July 2021 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors approved By-Law changes creating a third Standing Committee that joins the existing Administration and Finance Committee and Programs and Services Committee.



The charter of the new Emergency Communications and Field Services Committee (EC-FSC) is to develop and recommend new or modified Board policy and programs for emergency communications through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) and National Traffic System™ (NTS™) entities.

The committee also will offer enhanced support for its Field Organization leadership volunteers, including Section Managers, and an increased focus on ARRL-Affiliated Clubs.

Further, the EC-FSC will provide guidance to the CEO in translating Board policy into prioritized tasking, funding, and staffing of programs, services, and training in support of amateur radio emergency communications, Field Organization volunteers, and recruitment and retention of new and existing members through assistance to Affiliated and Special Service Clubs.

The EC-FSC will have the additional responsibility of monitoring and assessing trends in emergency communications technology and participant skills worldwide, and for identifying "best practices" for voluntary emergency communications provided by ARES and NTS, coordinating and cooperating with other amateur radio national societies as appropriate. -- *Thanks to The ARES Letter*



## [OVH Field Day 2021](#) Ole Virginia Hams!

by [Ken "The Other Ken" Brant](#)

Field day, like Gaul, is divided into three parts (- with apologies to Julius Caesar)

- 1) setup
- 2) field day operation and
- 3) tear down and submitting the log files.

### The Setup

June 25, 2021, was the day before the first day of Field Day. It was also "Setup Day".

As in some past years, we had a team out to shoot pull line in the trees which become support for field day antennas. Most years we do this with easy-ups and home made easy-up consisting of a sling shot and a fishing reel & weight. This year, we also had a drone dropping lines (George, K4GVT) and a very effective pneumatic launcher made by Jeff, K9VEG. There was no rain, and the lines went up. Our infrastructure erectors included Byron, AK4XR; Jeff, WB4TT; Gil, KM4OZH; Al, KB4BHB; Gene, N4HFW; John, KG4NXT; Harry, KN4IJY; Jay, NQ4T and Ron, K3FR.



Early Saturday morning we gathered to finish setup before field day started at 2 PM. We put up an 80-meter window, a 40-meter wire beam and the 160-meter horizontal loop. Gil loaned Ron his portable tower and Ron assembled it and put on several VHF/UHF beams. We also assembled the local area network for logging and two networks of electrical extension cord – one for generator power and one for laptops and lights from the mains. The rigs included John's IC-7610, Jay's 7100, Wayne, AG4ZZ's QRP solar powered CW rig and Jeff, K9VEG's CW rig.

This slideshow requires JavaScript.

### Field Day Operation

All systems were go at 2 PM, June 26, 2021. The field day operation is best described by Jay, NQ4T:

*"Field Day was great!"*

It was good to finally be able to do something as a club again. I would also like to thank everyone who came out to operate or just have some eyeball rag chews.



It truly was a club effort getting it together;

- Byron did a fine job organizing it,



- John was once again the "go-to" guy who helped everything run smoothly,





- Theresa cooked some excellent food,



- Bill "Mr. 10 Meters" was gracious enough to provide the food



- and then there were the guys that came out on Friday to help get the lines thrown &





- those of us who showed up bright and early to get everything set-up so when 1800 UTC hit, we were more than ready to operate.



Ron stayed glued to the VHF rig just about the entire time, Gil and Mark showed up to work the night shift. Jim was also there all night assisting with logging and helping to keep me company. Bill was also another overnighiter that made for some great conversation.



Everything went as smoothly as possible; there were no serious injuries, everyone went home with their radios. I made it home about 11:30 this morning, plopped in the recliner, turned the TV on, and next thing I know it was dark.

It was truly a club effort. In my opinion, even if you just stopped by for a little bit; you still helped make the event a reminder of why this club is one of the better ones. It was a bunch of friends, hanging out in a park pavilion all weekend. In my book, I don't think how many points we got overall is as important as the fact that we were all able to show up and do this.



Don, glad you enjoyed putting some miles on my rig. It was good to see it get some CW miles on it as well as to see some of my improvement hacks work as well as they did. I'm even impressed at how well that 7100 and my SDR/waterfall hack worked together. It worked great in the shack when I first hooked it all up; but my shack is a Faraday cage compared to Field Day. I'm a bit more embarrassed I did not know anything about setting that thing up for a CW key at first...but hey, we got it going.”



## **The Teardown**

**First, we had a nice breakfast cooked by Phil, AC4PL and Theresa around 10 AM Sunday.**

**Then the teardown started. There were no surprises and most everything seemed to fit back in the trailer.**

**When it was time to submit the log, we found that we had 101 CW, 116 digital and 194 phone contacts.**

**We also had a lot of bonus points:**

- Thanks to Tony, KM4KLB for 200 bonus points for message passing.**
- Thanks To Jeff Porter for the elected official bonus points.**
- Thanks to Wayne Kline for the natural power QSO points.**
- Thanks to Wayne Phillips for the safety officer points.**
- Thanks to Theresa KG4TVM for media publicity, public information table and social media points.**



- Thanks to DJ for youth participation points.



To see all 207 photos taken by George, Pinkie, Dana, Jay & Mark, please go to :  
[OVH Field Day 2021 \(targetengraving.com\)](http://targetengraving.com)

It is this camaraderie, this fellowship that reminds us of why we are a club, and not just a collection of individual operators.

See you next year!

Very 73,  
Jay, NQ4T; John, KG4NXT & "The Other Ken", KN4DD



## **Woodbridge Wireless' Field Day**

**Woodbridge Wireless held Field Day in Prince William County at the Lake Ridge Parks and Rec Ball Park. We had 60+ participants and visitors, including a visit from the local Boy Scouts working on their emergency preparedness merit badge. WWI submitted as 9A and scored just a little over 18K points. We had three operating teams including phone, CW and digital. Phone and CW used a single AB-577 to support a tri-band Yagi, rotatable 40M dipole and 80M wire dipole. The digital team used a series of verticals.**

**This year, the weather was great. As always, we really thank the ARRL for allowing us to start set up on Thursday to beat the heat.**

**CW.jpg - Picture of the CW Operators (W7IY and K5VG). The CW Team racked up a total of 2500 Q's using two stations.**

**GroupPicture.jpg - This is the WWI FD crew on Friday night after our annual pizza party.**

**Scout2.jpg - A picture of the Boy Scouts standing next to the WWI trailer.**

**Youth Pic (below) - Larry (K0LB), his son Michael (KG4DFI) and grandson at the mic.**



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Stu2, W7IY - FD Coordinator





## **Next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo to Offer Nearly 100 Speakers, 18 Topic Tracks**

The third [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#) is a month away. The live event takes place over the August 14 - 15 weekend, and presentations will remain available on demand for 30 days. Sponsors predict that the event will be "a great experience" for those wanting to improve their knowledge of amateur radio as well as of cutting-edge ham radio technology and practical techniques. ARRL is a QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo partner.

"At the Expo, you can listen and engage with almost 100 internationally recognized ham radio luminaries on approximately 18 different topic areas -- there is something for everyone," the sponsors say. "Topics include antennas and transmission lines; build-a-thons; contesting/DX; controllers; digital voice mode; emergency communications; filters and tuned circuits; the future of amateur radio; ham history; HF digital modes; new licenses; power amplifiers; propagation; radio astronomy; software and services; space and satellites; test and measurement, and youth in amateur radio."



A [complete list of speakers](#) at the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo is posted on the event's website. These are some examples:

- In the "Antennas and Transmission Lines" presentation, August Hansen, KB0YH, will focus on such topics as small transmitting loop design and *STLcalc*, an open-source design aid for STL and magnetic loop antennas that can respond to user's changing needs and design goals.



- **Geoffrey Mendenhall, W8GNM, will address the topic, "Compromise Beverage Antennas Hear Better Than You Think." The presentation focuses on overcoming non-ideal terrain and space limitations.**
- **"Fun with HF QRP Pedestrian Mobile," with Peter Parker, VK3YE, will offer a look at two antennas for HF pedestrian mobile, and the results possible with such an operation.**
- **Ham radio author Don Keith, N4KC, will present "Top 5 Get-On-The-Air-Quick Antennas," which offers recommendations for the simplest, most effective antennas to consider.**
- **Within the "New License -- Now What" track, the presentation "HF Noise Mitigation" will describe various noise sources and how to mitigate noise using a variety of techniques.**
- **Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, will discuss "Technician Licensees, Life Beyond Local Repeaters." Participants will explore the world of activities, modes, and bands available outside of repeater operation.**

**There's no limit on the number of topics and tracks that QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo visitors may view. Return any time within 30 days to (re)view any presentation, as well as to explore exhibitor offerings.**

**"Early bird" tickets are \$10 (\$12.50 "at the door"). Access to only the exhibitor area is free.**





## **Powhatan Area Radio Club – NVIS Workshop Article**

**August 2, 2021**

**The Powhatan Area Radio Club and Powhatan ARES held a near vertical incident skywave (NVIS) antenna workshop on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Around 15 hams from Powhatan and surrounding counties enjoyed a fellowship breakfast and hands-on session learning about NVIS antennas.**

**Curt Nellis (KD4JLY) from Powhatan Emergency Management provided a scenario for the group to consider during the workshop. There was a significant incoming coastal storm that would impact the tidewater region causing a mass exodus to the Greater Richmond region. He asks that Powhatan ARES activate and deploy an NVIS antenna to establish and maintain contact with various regions of the state throughout the event.**

**Carl Cash (KF4UBE) instructed the class with four phases of implementation for the NVIS antenna. The first phase was to construct the antenna using wire, banana jack to BNC connector and plastic fence posts from Tractor Supply.**

**The second phase was to tune the antenna by twisting the wire on the end support rods to shorten or lengthen the wire as needed. This phase also allowed the group to gain skills using a portable antenna tuner and better understand characteristics**



of the wire dipole antenna.

The third phase involved using the antenna with the club's Yaesu 991-A to make contacts on 40 meters. The radio system was deployed in the front lawn of the county's Village building and were able to make several contacts with POTA stations that were on the air that morning.

For the final phase of the class, Carl asked the group for suggestions on how to improve the antenna configuration. Several suggestions were made including increasing the antenna height, adding a reflector element, and deploying into an inverted V using a portable mast. The group decided to try the inverted V configuration utilizing a portable mast.

The group enjoyed the hands on and practical nature of the workshop. The ability to quickly deploy an NVIS antenna for emergency communications is an important skill for individual communicators and for clubs and ARES teams that serve government agencies and non-governmental organizations. The group also had a lot of fun building fellowship in the Powhatan area amateur community.

The club is looking forward to our next hands-on workshop in September when we plan to build a J-pole antenna. Please visit us on the web at <https://www.n4pow.com> if you're interested in joining the fun!





## **VMARC (Virginia Mountain Amateur Radio Club) TALKS TALL IN AUGUST MEETING**

**by Dwight M. Rohr, W4SPJ-PIO**

**The August meeting was nothing short of a successful get together with area 'Hams' 13 in number including guests, new amateur candidates at the Emergency Operating Center in Covington, Virginia. The usual transaction of business took place including remote attendance via Zoom.**

**A video biography of Alfred Lee Loomis, an attorney and scientist who is credited with the invention of the Long-Range Navigation equipment (LORAN) was shown.**



**Loomis was born in November 1887 and later hosted scientist at his posh home built with a laboratory to conduct his scientific investigations. The hour-long documentary was produced by PBS.**

**The well attended meeting was also made possible on Zoom for the benefit of those members not present in person. Janet Lacks, KK4ZDK, vice-president produced the Zoom session. The meeting presided by Gene Wood, WA4PGI, president of the Virginia Mountain Amateur Club.**



## **Woody White, KZ4AK, Wins the July 2021 QST Cover Plaque Award**

*08/02/2021*

**The winning article for the July 2021 QST Cover Plaque award is “A Sensitive Field Strength Meter for Foxhunting,” by Woody White, KZ4AK.**

**Woody is a member and Past President of the Lynchburg Amateur Radio Club!**

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## Dave Adsit KG4BIR and The Berryville Hamfest

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Here's a couple pictures of my setup at the Berryville Hamfest on Sunday. I had plenty of ARRL information to hand out as well as ARES applications. I was setup right next to the ARRL table where they were checking QSL cards. We were located right inside the front entrance of the building which made it hard not to see the



table. I'm hoping next year I can have a better- looking banner and starting to think about a different setup where maybe we have go-kits on display or operational and maybe even a forum would be nice. Gary Sessums K5QCN attended and sat at my table for a while.





**2021 Tidewater Hamfest & Swap Meet  
September 11, 2021**

**The Ambassador Club of Portsmouth  
364 Peninsula Ave, Portsmouth, VA 23704  
Lat: 36° 50' 16" N Lon: 76° 19' 07" W**

**Talk-in has been changed and the new Frequency is:  
146.850 – PL 100.0**

**DMR Suggested Simplex frequency 441.000 TG 99, TS 1**

**Admission 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Reservation Information for the 2021 Tidewater Radio Convention Hamfest can be found on the [Ticket Info](#) page.**

**Dealers and Vendors can download the flyer and mailing information from the .pdf below.**

**[Dealer](#)**

**ALL DEALERS AND VENDORS NEED TO READ THE FOLLOWING: [VIRGINIA BEACH HAMFEST DEALER & VENDOR INFO](#)**

**<http://virginiabeachhamfest.com/>**



**Time to Say Goodbye!**

**By**

**Ed Gibbs KW4GF**

**All good things must come to an end. As of September 30,2021, I will be leaving my VA Section positions.**

**Here is a portion of my resignation letter:**

**Dear Dr. Joe,**

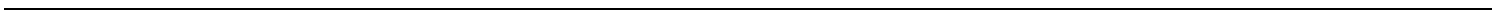
**I am formally resigning as ARRL VA Section Assistant Section Manager and Public Information Coordinator effective September 30,2021.**

**My reasons for my resignation are the following:**

- 1. Increasing health issues surrounding my XYL.**
- 2. A desire to spend my ham radio time just enjoying the hobby.**
- 3. My inability to put together an effective team to support Section activities. Frankly, I don't want to work in a vacuum.**
- 4. My increasing interest in other hobbies and pursuits. I am relinquishing all my leadership titles both state and locally in ham radio**



**Next month is my last issue. I'll spend some time handing out kudos to those some of those whom I felt put their best foot forward for the Section. Thanks for all the acquaintances I've made over time. Best of luck and 73 de KW4GF**







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