



ARRL Virginia Section News

March 11, 2020

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Virginia QSO Party By Gordon Miller NQ4K

The Virginia QSO Party is almost here.

It is the time of the year when the days grow longer, the snow melts, the trees start to bud, the grass turns green, and 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 21-22 March, operators throughout Virginia, the United States and Canada, and the World, will get on the air to celebrate amateur radio in Virginia.

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/2020_VQP/2020_VQP_Main.html.

Many people are working to make this event a success. Clubs, companies, and individuals are sponsoring 27 plaques commemorating achievements in many operating categories. Several individuals are making operating aids available to help operators find that elusive QTH. Finally, mobile operators will try to ensure that there is some coverage all over Virginia.



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 71 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 21-22 March 2020.

**Saturday, 21 March 2020 1400 UTC - Sunday, 22 March 0400 UTC and
Sunday, 22 March 1200 UTC - 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!





US Science and Engineering Festival:

Donations Still Needed

Bruce Matthews KN4TS and his team have been busy planning for the US Science and Engineering Festival at the Walter Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC during the weekend of April 25-26, 2020.

To help out or volunteer, please contact Bruce Matthews, KN4TS, at bruce@thematthews.net. You can also sign up to volunteer at SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoF4AAFAB2FABFE3-usasef>

You can make monetary donations at the GoFundMe page: https://www.gofundme.com/f/usasef-amateur-radio-exhibit?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1

You can also make direct donations via PayPal or Venmo to KN4TS@diplomats.net. Bruce will also accept donations of cash or checks at:

**Bruce Matthews
13802 Leighfield Street
Chantilly, VA 20151**

Send Bruce a donation in any amount. Don't be embarrassed if it's a dollar or two. He'll be glad to accept it.

Let's celebrate ham radio. Let's make it happen.



Don't forget Winterfest and the AUXCOMM Conference on March 29, 2020 in Vienna, Virginia. I've attached a flyer for the conference and past issues of the VA Section News have highlighted the Winterfest and the AUXCOMM Conference! Sunday, March 29, 2020

**Northern Virginia Community College
8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003
Ernst Community Cultural Center, Forum Room
Park in Parking Lot B, enter off Wakefield Chapel Road
9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Winlink Wednesday Tops 220 Check-ins

Greg Butler KW6GB, moderator of the wildly popular Winlink Wednesday, reported that a new record of 222 check-ins was achieved on March 4, 2020.

Greg reported on the VA EMCOMM FB Page:

Yet another new record! Yesterday, Winlink Wednesday received 222 total messages (new record), comprising 148 check-ins (ties record) from 118 Virginia participants (ties record), including one new station. Welcome to Page Memorial Hospital (NWR-PAGE). In addition, there were 32 check-ins (27 stations) from out-of-state (CA, DE, FL, IN, MD, MS, NC, OH, OR, PA, SC, TX, and WV). On the map, blue icons represent P2P check-ins and red icons represent RMS check-ins.

**Note: A better quality version of the current week's map is available at:
[https://qsl.net/kw6gb/Winlink Wednesday/WWMap.png](https://qsl.net/kw6gb/Winlink%20Wednesday/WWMap.png)**



**Westmoreland High School, the Westmoreland Amateur Radio Club,
and the Virginia Defense Force Team Up**

**Reprinted from the Virginia Defense newsletter: ON THE WINGS OF EAGLES,
March, 2020**

With permission from Major James Stanley KM4BID, Virginia Defense Force

Westmoreland Amateur Radio Club HF Radio Introduction

Grant Farrand W4GMF of the Westmoreland Amateur Radio Club will be at the 21 March Cadet drill to introduce us to the fun and vital world of amateur radio. He will give us the opportunity to work on setting up a high frequency radio set and antenna in the field and get on the air across the state or across the world.

Across Virginia and across the United States, the setting up and use of HF radio systems to augment emergency communications has been a goal for emergency managers. When disasters take down regular communications systems, amateur radio operators can take their radio sets anywhere, string up an antenna, and get on the air, even in the middle of a field, on top of a building.

One of our goals is to get every Cadet to earn their Federal Communications Commission amateur radio license. This license can open the doorway to a fun exciting hobby or career, and can provide an additional skill that can serve the community. Will your first radio contact be with someone thousands of miles away or just across the state? See you on the 21st to find out!





VA ARES NEWS

- **A second meeting at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management was held on February 26, 2020. Meeting attendees consisted of Virginia ARES, ARCA, the Virginia Defense Force, and the Civil Air Patrol. Attendees discussed guidelines and procedures for communicating during emergency occurrences. VA ARES attendees were Dr. Joe Palsa K3WRY, Virginia Section Manager, John Roberts WB4AXY, Section Emergency Coordinator, and Wayne Rogers N1WR, Lancaster County Emergency Coordinator. A third meeting will take place in April.**
- **District 5 VA ARES Leadership met on February 22, 2020, in Hampton, VA. Terry Buzzard KA8TNF Assistant State Emergency Coordinator led a lively meeting and discussed the new Strategic Plan and Districts. The discussion involved communications, relationship with VDEM, leadership concerns, and training requirements.**

Virginia Net Beacon News

By

Steve Krum KV4AN

QRM from stations using the FT-8 digital mode caused us to move our net frequency down 500 Hz to 3568.0 KHz. Even with the move, there has been a couple net session where the QRM was so bad that net operations were very difficult. I have been listening on 3560.0 KHz and that frequency seems clear. I'm hesitant to move the net so far down the band, but it may be a necessary permanent measure in the near future. I'm interested in your opinions about another move. Until we decide, turn the RF-Gain down and use a narrow IF Filter on the nights when FT-8 is close aboard. Lastly, it was good to meet several of you at the Richmond Frostfest. Thanks for taking your time to talk with me. I bought some commercially made coaxial cable assemblies, ferrite chokes for computer interconnecting cables, and a special tool to assemble Anderson Power Pole connectors, which I use on all my 12V equipment.



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