



ARRL Virginia Section News

April 15, 2020 # 9

Bob Heil K9EID Visits Vienna Wireless Society's Zoom Meeting

At their March 27th regular bi-monthly meeting (2nd and 4th Fridays of the month) the men and women of the Vienna Wireless Society (VWS) www.viennawireless.net hosted Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound. After being introduced by club president Andrew Straatveit, K3NHT, Bob spent about nearly an hour with the 72 club members who attended via Zoom. Bob showed and talked about his phased array on 80 meters and antenna phasing; discussed audio phasing and demonstrated his PR-40 microphone; and answered questions from the membership. The club then coaxed Bob into playing a few songs on his fabulous theater organ (below). The club thoroughly enjoyed his visit, and asked him to return in the future to make a more formal presentation on antenna phasing and audio design. Several members of the club, including Brendan O'Neill, KM4HRR, have a background in audio systems and are looking forward to hearing more about Bob's early days with the Who and the Grateful Dead and the Heil display in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. VWS thanks Ed Gibbs, KW4GF, for providing information on Bob Heil and Ham Nation <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation> .



**Vienna Wireless having fun with guest Bob Heil, K9EID.
Bob even played his organ! As Bob likes to say, "Really Cool!"**



Franklin County ARC hosts “Franklin County Moonshine Heritage Month” Special Event

**The Franklin County ARC is sponsoring a great special event that runs from April 15-April 30 is dedicated to Franklin County’s memories of their county’s history of moonshining. W4M will operate on the following bands: 10,15,20,40,80,and 160. Because of its popularity, one will ultimately find W4M on the DX Cluster.
For QSL and more information, please check the W4M QRZ page.**

From the Virginia Net Beacon

April,2020

By

Steve Krumm KV4An Net Manager

NET MANAGER BULLETIN

QRM from stations using the FT-8 digital mode has subsided on our new net frequency. I don’t know if it is changing band conditions as we transition from winter to spring or something else. Whatever the reason, I’m glad that the net has been able to operate normally again. I hope and pray that all the net members are safe and in good health, despite the COVID19 pandemic. One good thing about our hobby is that it is perfect for “social distancing” – in fact, we think the farther the distance, the better! Remember those commercial made coaxial jumpers I mentioned that I bought at the Frostfest? I had to use one to replace a coaxial jumper from my rig to the antenna switch. I noticed that when I hit the desk the receive noise would momentarily stop. When I wiggled the coax, I could reproduce the problem. It is hard to imagine what could go wrong with a coaxial jumper that hasn’t been moved and is inside the



shack, other than maybe oxidation? Finally, concerning Winlink and Packet. A new Winlink node has been established near Richmond, it is the KN4LQN node. I have linked to it using the HF Winlink ARDOP mode. There is also a full-time HF and VHF Packet network in Virginia now. It is called the Virginia Packet Network (VAPN). For those of you in Northern Virginia, you should be able to link to the Bulletin Board System (BBS) using 145.030 MHz 1200 Baud Packet. If you are not in Northern Virginia, you can use Robust Packet (must have an SCS TNC) on 3598.0 KHz. Occasionally, they switch to 300 Baud HF Packet for testing. The advantage of 300 Baud HF Packet is it can be done with a soundcard interface and software. Contact KX4O, John, if you would like to see more 300 Baud HF Packet used by the VAPN. See www.vapn.org for more information. VN meets daily at 2300 local time on 3568.0 KHz CW.

Virginia QSO Party Status

By Gordon Miller NQ4k

The weather was nice inside our radio shacks and the Virginia QSO Party is over. The Party results are not fully tabulated. The final date for submittal of logs is 15 April. And the Awards Ceremony is scheduled for the Manassas Hamfest on 13 June, if it is not cancelled. If cancelled, we will make alternative arrangements. Maybe an on-line presentation.

However, we can provide some initial comments.

We have received 550 logs so far. This is about 100 logs more than we received last year. We attribute some of the increase to normal growth of the Party, which has been steady over the past few years. We contribute most of the increase to the new State QSO Party Championships and, of course, the recent stay-at-home policies.

The popular band was 80M with a significant amount of traffic. This was expected, but still we were pleasantly surprised at the amount of activity.



Mobile operations were very prevalent. We have logs from 20 mobile stations and expect at least one more. An incredible number. They deserve special thanks.

We had a very nice SOAPBOX comment from OM2VL about the Party. You can read his comment on the tidbits page of the Virginia QSO Party website at

https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2020_VQP/2020_VQP_Main.html

From the K4AMG Memorial Radio Club

By Don Stidwell KE4RMO

We are pleased to announce that Connor Black, W4IPC, has been approved for attending the Youth on the Air camp in West Chester, Ohio. This is the first YOTA camp in the Americas. Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the firm date is not established (originally scheduled for 21 - 26 June 2020), but regardless of the actual date the camp will be held, Connor has a reserved spot. Congratulations, Connor!



Connor Black W4IPC



Hamvention QSO Party- Reprinted From The Worldwide Operators Foundation



The Dayton Hamvention for 2020 has been [cancelled](#). WWROF, in cooperation with the Hamvention organizers, wanted to create a fun way for people to celebrate the Hamvention experience over the air - the Hamvention QSO Party. *In memory of Ron, W8ILC, who became a silent key just two days after the Hamvention 2020 cancellation announcement. Ron had attended every Hamvention since the beginning.*

This is a 12 hour fun event on Saturday of Hamvention May 16, 2020.

Object: To celebrate the Dayton Hamvention by working as many Amateur stations as possible during the QSO Party period.

Contest period: 8 AM to 8 PM EDST (1200 to 2400 UTC), May 16, 2020

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters CW and SSB - You can work the same station once per band mode (12 QSOs possible with same station).

Exchange: Signal report and first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention send "2020".

Entry Categories: Only single operator entries - you may use assistance such as the cluster and the reverse beacon network (RBN). No self-spotting.



There are three power levels:

- QRP - no more than 5 watts
- Low Power - No more than 100 watts
- High Power - no more than 1500 watts.

Scoring: Score is number of QSOs + bonus points = final score. There are no multipliers.

Special bonus points: W8BI, the club call of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA is the host of Hamvention) will be activated by DARA members from their home stations. You can add 10 points for each band mode QSO with W8BI (12 available). So you can earn 120 bonus points (this is like having 120 additional QSOs)

To Enter: Post your score at 3830scores.com within 5 days of the event (May 21, 2020). No logs are required.

Awards: An online certificate will be available to all stations that post a score before the deadline.

Questions: Contact Tim Duffy, K3LR, k3lr@k3lr.com

From the Weekly ARRL Newsletter-April 9,2020

ARMED FORCES CROSSBAND TEST POSTPONED

The annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test has been postponed, due to the ongoing COVID-19 response and mitigation actions. The 2020 Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test was scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 9. Because it's uncertain just when stay-at-home orders will be lifted across the US, AFD planners chose to postpone this year's event, because the government stations that typically support this event may not be available. Armed Forces Day Crossband Test planners are considering scheduling a November event in honor of Veteran's Day, depending on COVID-19 mitigation actions. During the AFD Crossband Test, military stations in various locations transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific ham frequencies they are monitoring to work radio amateurs. -- *Thanks to US Army MARS Program Chief Paul English, WD8DBY*



**Greene County Reports:
By Bill Sterling K4000**

I just wanted to bring you up to speed on what's happening in Greene County. Until this virus thing goes away or at least subsides, our Board has decided we will not have any more monthly club meetings. I would assume that we're not the only club doing this. But what we ARE doing is holding a daily "Wellness Check-in Net". We do this every evening at 7PM for anyone to check in so we can all know that all is okay with our members. We use the Flat Top Repeater (145.470, 151.4) for this. We typically have about a dozen (+/-) folks check in. Interestingly, we find that since we do this on the repeater, that other non-members will also check in from other counties. We thought that doing something like this would help the club to "stay together" in lieu of seeing each other face-to-face. We still have our monthly Board meetings, but only on a simplex frequency, and find this works quite well.

Regarding Field Day, the Board has decided the club will not participate this year. Instructions have been sent out to all members on how to do this from home. This is what it's all about anyway, right? Improvise the best way you can.

**Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service's (CARS) ZOOM Extra Class
By
Duane Ettwein KJ4YKG**

A 2020 goal of Mike Tromba, KK4OXH, President of the Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service (CARS) was to conduct an Amateur Extra course. Five members volunteered to instruct the course—John Cooper, N3JC; Duane Ettwein, KJ4YKG; Barry Priddy, K5VIP; Bill Runyon, WF4R; and Dennis Watson, K4DGW. The instruction team met in early January to divide up the instruction tasks. The course started on February 11, 2020 and was scheduled to run for sixteen (16), 2-hour sessions until April 2, 2020 followed by a testing session on April 4, 2020. The course was progressing normally until March 12th when it was suspended due to the COVID-19 virus "social distancing" decree. The instructors got together to investigate ways to continue the course. Dennis, K4DGW, suggested using video conferencing. Dennis had access to Zoom and setup a practice meeting for March 17th. The practice run demonstrated video conferencing to be a practical solution for conducting the course. The course resumed on March 19th. Class attendees had little problem logging into the meeting and participating in the class. The club continues to conduct sessions using videoconferencing sessions. The course is now estimated to complete on April 9th. Now if we could only figure out how to conduct a video testing session.



The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service getting it done with their Extra Class!



From the ARRL:

ARRL VEC Issues Statement on Video-Supervised Online Exam Sessions

04/13/2020

Very few ARRL Volunteer Examiner teams have successfully conducted in-person exam sessions (following social distancing guidelines) and video-supervised exam sessions using fillable PDF exams and documents. So far, we have found that both types of sessions take volunteer teams two to three times longer to conduct and accommodate fewer candidates than sessions conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, the video sessions have included only one examinee per session.

We ask the community to be patient with our volunteer teams as they navigate uncharted territory. Please remember with the introduction of significant new processes such as these, that there should be proof of concept, establishment of protocols and procedures, and beta testing before expanding to a larger audience. Video-supervised exam sessions require a different skillset than in-person exam administration. Not all teams will be equipped to deliver video exams right away.

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) has been investigating options for an online examination system. Fillable PDFs are cumbersome within a video-supervised exam session process.

We recognize that online testing would represent a large-scale solution for our thousands of VEs and would make session procedures easier for our teams, but this will not happen overnight.

The ARRL VEC will continue to adapt and respond to the evolving crisis as we search for viable and easy-to-use online examination system solutions and conduct exam sessions in innovative ways.



From the ARRL

New Volunteer Monitor Program is Up and Running

04/10/2020

After kicking off on January 1, the new Volunteer Monitor Program has ramped up to operational status. A “soft rollout” of the program began on February 1, designed to familiarize Volunteer Monitors (VMs) with issues on the bands and to put into practice what to report — and what to ignore, based on their training. The VMs not only will be looking for operating discrepancies, but for examples of good operating. The VM program has, at least for the moment, put Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, back in the center of amateur radio enforcement as the Volunteer Monitor Coordinator (VMC). He was brought aboard to get the program up and running, and ARRL will eventually take over the VMC function. Hollingsworth is using a system called *VMTRAC* — developed by a VM — to measure the work of VMs and determine instances that qualify for good operator or discrepancy notices, referral to the FCC, or follow-up with FCC requests to the VM program. Hollingsworth reported that during March, the 165 active VMs logged upward of 2,300 hours of monitoring on HF, and nearly 2,000 hours on VHF-UHF and other frequencies.

“I am extremely pleased with the number of hours devoted to monitoring this early in the program,” Hollingsworth said. No stone is being left unturned. Two VMs constantly monitor FT8 watering holes and have developed programs that alert them if a licensee is operating outside of privileges accorded to that license class or if a license has expired. “That has occurred in a half dozen cases so far,” he said.

“We have 30 open cases, five of which are good operator cases,” Hollingsworth said. “Regarding open cases relating to rule violations, none have yet had to be referred to the FCC.” He said he’s experimented with letters, telephone calls, or emails to the subjects of discrepancy reports where they could be identified. While he’s still waiting for replies to his written correspondence, he has received responses to his calls and emails, and the violations have either stopped or were explained. “They were violations such as expired licenses, Technicians operating on General frequencies, unauthorized use of a call sign, and deliberate interference,” he said.



One case “being groomed for FCC referral,” he said, involves long-standing interference to a repeater in the Philadelphia area by someone using an unauthorized call sign. Hollingsworth said he worked with net control operators of nets on 75 and 40 meters that had been suffering serious interference, and so far the solutions are working.

“It is becoming apparent that if informal contact can be made by the VMC with a known offender, the problem can sometimes be stopped,” Hollingsworth said. “If this continues to work, it will minimize FCC referral and make those we do refer more worthy of FCC resources and more severe action. We do not want to call upon the FCC unless absolutely necessary, but when we do, the subjects should understand that FCC action will be expedited. I think our own enforcement outreach may resolve all but our very worst cases. At the present time, we have only one in which we do not have a suspicion as to who is causing the problem.”

New River Valley ARC Sponsors

“Audie Murphy Special Event”

SPECIAL EVENT: May 30th from 1300Z to 2200Z Audie Murphy, sponsored by the New River Valley (VA) Amateur Radio Club. 3.860, 7.262, and 14.262 MHz, operating from Brush Mountain, VA on the Appalachian Trail near the Audie Murphy Memorial. QSL Danny Wylam, 710 McDaniel Drive, Christianburg VA 24073. dannywylam@gmail.com



Williamsburg Amateur Radio Club Sponsors

“Jamestown Landing Special Event”

SPECIAL EVENT: May 9th from 1400Z to 2000Z. Jamestown Landing Day Event sponsored by the Williamsburg (VA) Area Amateur Radio Club. 7.265 and 14.265 MHz, QSL Manager K4RC, PO Box 1470, Williamsburg VA 23187. www.k4rc.net



Joe Palsa, K3WRY, Section Manager reports that The Richmond Amateur Telegraphic Society’s Health and Welfare Net occurs every evening at 7:00 on the 146.88 repeater, -600, PL Tone 74.4

The Virginia Beach Amateur Radio Club’s Health and Welfare Net occurs every evening at 7:00 on the 146.895 repeater, -600, PL Tone 141.3

Greene County’s Health and Welfare Net occurs every evening at 7:00 PM on the 145.470, PL Tone 151.4

**What is your club doing? Please let me know and I'll publicize it.
Ham are getting back on the air!**

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