

## ROANOKE DIVISION REPORT FOR 2019

Roanoke Division ARRL Membership increased 1% during 2019, second best among the fifteen ARRL Divisions. As shown below, the number of affiliated clubs remains strong with a slight increase year-over-year. Nevertheless, many clubs are experiencing continual pressure with societal changes, such as less available space for non-profits to meet at little or no charge and younger operators who are less interested in the traditional format of an evening or Saturday morning meeting.

<u>CLUBS</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
North Carolina	83	25	2
South Carolina	33	34	1
Virginia	67	67	0
West Virginia	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>3</b>

There was a slight increase in the number of hamfests in the division from 2018 to 2019. This is welcome news and comes despite the fact that many hamfests are having to adjust to fewer available vendors and lower attendance.

<u>HAMFESTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
North Carolina	14	16	2
South Carolina	7	6	-1
Virginia	6	8	2
West Virginia	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>

Director Hippisley (#) and Vice Director Morine (+) represented ARRL at the following hamfests in 2019:

<u>HAMFEST NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>HAMFEST DESIGNATION</u>
FrostFest #	Richmond, VA	Roanoke Division Convention
Charlotte Hamfest # +	Concord, NC	North Carolina Section Convention
Charleston Hamfest # +	Charleston, WV	West Virginia Section Convention
RARSfest # +	Raleigh, NC	North Carolina State Convention
WV State Convention #	Weston, WV	West Virginia State Convention
Vinton (Roanoke) Hamfest #	Vinton, VA	
Shelby Hamfest # +	Shelby, NC	
Maysville Hamfest +	Maysville, NC	
BeachFest +	Conway, SC	South Carolina Section Convention
JARSfest +	Benson, NC	

In mid-year the greater Raleigh, North Carolina area was the site of the 19<sup>th</sup> USA and 10<sup>th</sup> IARU Region 2 ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) Championships. Training sessions were held July 28 - 31, followed by full-course classic events, sprints and “foxoring” August 1 - 4. “Foxoring” is a timed race in which individual competitors use a topographic map and a magnetic compass to navigate through varied, wooded terrain while searching for radio transmitters. Dozens of entrants came from many countries to participate — including a group of high school students from China. Upon Director Hippisley’s recommendation, Charles Scharlau, NZ0I, of Cary, NC was named by President Roderick as a Co-Coordinator of ARRL’s ARDF Committee just prior to the championships near Raleigh.

The 2019 Boy Scout World Jamboree with its 40,000 plus attendees was held at BSA’s Summit Bechtel Reserve outside Beckley, West Virginia between July 22 and August 4. During that period, over 300 radio amateurs — Scouts, leaders and other volunteers, and visitors — signed the NA1WJ logbook. 45 licensed operators from at least nine different countries made 3,791 QSOs with 3,177 different stations in 88 countries, and nine individuals obtained new or upgraded USA amateur privileges while on-site, thanks to the cooperation of a local Volunteer Examiner (VE) team. A congratulatory ARRL plaque for the NA1WJ operation was presented to Jim Wilson, K5ND, Trustee of amateur radio license K2BSA, the Boy Scouts of America Radio Scouting program, by Vice Director Morine.

Summit Bechtel Reserve is one of four permanent “high adventure bases” operated by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The next major gathering at the 20,000-acre Bechtel facility that will provide an opportunity to introduce thousands of Scouts and their leaders to the “magic” of amateur radio will be the July, 2021 BSA National Jamboree. It’s not too early for ARRL to start planning its involvement with BSA, as there are few gatherings with as many potential young hams in one place as a BSA National Jamboree.

A highlight of 2019 for both Director Hippisley and Vice Director Morine was the presentation of ARRL’s *Centurion Award* to the oldest known Amateur Radio operator in the United States, 108 year old “Cliff” Kayhart, W4KKP, of White Rock, South Carolina. The presentation was made at the Dutch Forks Amateur Radio Group monthly meeting on November 21 in Little Mountain, SC. Following the presentation, Cliff — who is still very active on the air — was interviewed by Director Hippisley about his experiences as a radio installation officer on Iwo Jima in World War II. The interview with this spry centenarian can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=0nUO7u9PGRc>

Shown below at the ceremony are (L-R) Director Hippisley, Kayhart, Vice Director Morine, and South Carolina Section Manager Marc Tarplee, N4UFP. Many thanks to South Carolina Section Technical Coordinator Brad Humphries, AE4VJ, for providing his photograph and video recording expertise to document the occasion.



In our contacts with constituents over the past twelve months, we have heard from them on a wide variety of subjects. Among the most important to them – and thus more deserving of ARRL action in the coming year - are the ones most frequently mentioned:

- Antenna privileges for those in neighborhoods with HOA restrictions
- Graduated life membership rates for both seniors and younger Hams
- Enhanced digital mode resolution; i.e. symbol rate, encryption, bandwidth & allocation
- Readjustment of band segments, especially 80 meters and 3.0-5.0 GHz
- Enhancement of ARRL's EmCOMM programs and initiatives
- Electronic processing of examinations through ARRL's VE program
- Expansion of HF privileges for Technician Class licensees, especially for EmCOMM response
- More publications and resources for newer and reactivating operators

We encourage all Roanoke Division members to send their thoughts and comments to us anytime on these and other issues.

Outreach to the Roanoke Division's 12,000 members continues through the website [www.arrl-roanoke.org](http://www.arrl-roanoke.org), through its Facebook page at *ARRL-Roanoke Division*, and its Twitter page *@ARRLRoanokeDiv*.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director

Bill Morine, N2COP  
Vice Director