



WELCOME TO THE

ARRL - ROANOKE DIVISION

North Carolina · South Carolina · Virginia · West Virginia

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Temporary Waivers Bring New Excitement to Field Day

Recognizing that many Hams may need to remain home this year because of pandemic safety precautions, ARRL's Programs & Services Committee amended the rules for this year's Field Day by placing two temporary waivers. First, Class 1D stations which use commercial power can now have QSOs with other Class 1D stations count towards points in the event. The other change is that points generated by home based stations can also be applied to a club, thereby counting twice—once for the individual station and once towards the club total. These two changes are in effect for this year only.

Since its creation in 1933, the purpose of Field Day is to demonstrate and celebrate Amateur Radio versatility in establishing two-way communications under simulated emergency conditions. Even if you remain home, invite local elected officials, agency representatives and media reporters (worth 100 bonus points each) to join you by video conferencing to show how Amateur Radio can help fellow citizens in a disaster. In a recent commentary, former FEMA Director Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, predicted that the next great need during the pandemic could be emergency communications,

especially as hurricane season ramps up. Field Day is the ideal event to display to the public our capabilities. Get on the air and have fun this year.



FCC Reaffirms Remote Testing Of Exams Is Okay

On May 3, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai Tweeted, "Good news for aspiring amateur radio operators: the FCC has clarified that its rules allow remote testing and that remote testing doesn't require prior FCC approval ." This followed FCC Public Notice DA20-467 released on April 30 stating the official opinion that Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) can offer exams under social distancing conditions. Some are being given in person like one shown in the picture from a recent Texas location, some with candidates remaining in cars, and some even by video with monitors keeping surveillance.

With the current pool of Extra Class exam questions expiring on June 30 with no extension, some candidates are eager to take the top test before July. While many test sessions have been cancelled, an updated list of examination sessions can be found on ARRL's website at : http://www.arrl.org/exam_sessions/search Be sure to bring photocopies of your driver's and Amateur Radio licenses as well as cash since many test sites will not have a copier or credit card terminal.



Clubs Get Creative With Meetings And Nets During Stay-At-Home Restrictions

Dozens of clubs are using video conferencing services to meet virtually. Several clubs are also running health and welfare nets both on HF and VHF/UHF to check up on fellow Hams. And repeaters across the region are very active. Congratulations to all who are staying connected. In addition, Director Bud



and Vice Director Bill are available to join your club meeting as guest speakers by Zoom or using your club's video conferencing account. Send an email to Bud at w2ru@arrl.org or Bill at n2cop@arrl.org to see when either of them can join you.



Monongalia Wireless Association of Morgantown, West Virginia Holds Meetings On Zoom

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North Carolina Has New Section Manager—Marv Hoffman, WA4NC

Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, of Boone, NC was elected the new North Carolina Section Manager. He replaces Karl Bowman, W4CHX, who stepped down after six years. Marv is a retired professor of political science at Appalachian State University, and is a former town and county manager. He recently became a credentialed trainer of the Dept. of Homeland Security's AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communications) course, and he's active in emergency communications. Stop by and say hello to Marv on the Tar Heel Emergency Net at 3923 KHz on Thursdays at 7:30 PM when he's net control.



ARRL Operating As Usual During COVID-19 Restrictions

On March 23, ARRL headquarters complied with Connecticut state edicts and closed its headquarters building in Newington. The League's Information Technology (IT) Dept. immediately helped set up employees to work from home. Almost all functions are continuing as normal. The headquarters building is expected to reopen in full mid to late summer as the state of Connecticut revises its rules for office locations. We are grateful to the dedicated ARRL staff for continuing to serve members during this challenging time.



Stay Safe. Get On The Air And Have Fun!

73 de

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