



WELCOME TO THE

# ARRL - ROANOKE DIVISION

North Carolina · South Carolina · Virginia · West Virginia

ALMOST 13,000 AMATEUR RADIO MEMBERS STRONG...



YEAR END 2022

## INAUGURAL DIVISION VIDEO TOWN HALL MEETING A HIT

The first ever division level town hall meeting launched on December 12, with over 200 Hams watching live. Attendees met Director Jim Boehner and three of the four Section Managers—South Carolina's Marc Tarplee N4UFP, Virginia's Jack Smith KE4LWT and West Virginia's Dan Ringer K8WV. North Carolina's Marv Hoffman WA4NC was unavailable and sent his regrets. Vice Director Bill Morine N2COP served as moderator. The brainchild and producer of the event was Brad Humphries AE4VJ, the South Carolina Section Technical Coordinator. A professional broadcast engineer, Brad has been producing similar video town halls for the South Carolina section for several years. Reaction to the Town Hall was very favorable,

and the Roanoke Division leaders plan to offer similar Town Halls quarterly. Look for dates in the near future. If you missed the event, or would like to see it again, it's available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2PUeqHPokQ>

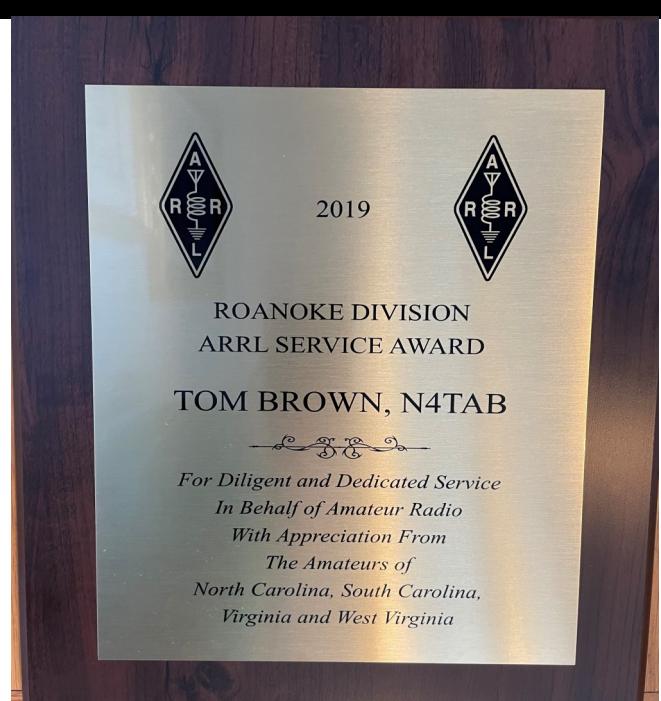
Five door prizes of copies of the **ARRL Handbook 100** were given away through a random drawing to ARRL members who watched the entire Town Hall live. Congratulations to Mark Braunstein WA4KFZ of Virginia, Steve Courts K8JQ of West Virginia, Brian Falvey N1BFJ of Virginia, and to Bill Horne W4EWH and Chris Weiss N4SYF, both from South Carolina. Door prizes will be given again at future Town Halls. Please joins us next time.



**MORE STORIES ON THE INSIDE.....** Nomination time for the 2022 Roanoke Division Service Award, North Carolina middle school students talk live with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station, Scholarships available for deserving Ham Radio students, remembering Virginian and former ARRL President Harry Dannals W2HD, 2023 year long Volunteers On The Air (VOTA) contest, **PLUS MORE.....**

## NOMINATION TIME FOR ROANOKE DIVISION SERVICE AWARD

**A**RRL Roanoke Division's most prestigious award is looking for nominations for its 2022 cycle. Begun in 1968, only 54 ARRL members who reside in the four states which comprise the Roanoke Division have been selected by their peers for this honor. Because of COVID and the lack of operating events and hamfests over the past two years, the 2020 and 2021 awards were curtailed. The history of the award, a list of past winners and the nomination form can be found on the division's website at: [www.arrl-roanoke.com/awards.htm](http://www.arrl-roanoke.com/awards.htm) The deadline to submit a nomination application is January 31, 2023. Past winners of the award will review submissions and vote to select the candidate they believe is most qualified. The winner will be announced in February.



## GET READY FOR THE YEAR LONG 2023 CONTEST—VOTA VOLUNTEERS ON THE AIR

**A**RRL has 7,000 volunteers across the United States, and 442 of them live and operate in the Roanoke Division. To celebrate their numerous contributions to make Amateur Radio better for us all, the year 2023 is being dedicated as the year of Volunteers On the Air, or "VOTA". Each state will have two dedicated weeks throughout the year where operators can earn an equivalent of Worked All States or WAS. State operations will use the W1AW call sign followed by the call district of the state. In the Roanoke Division, the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia will operate as W1AW/4. West Virginia will be W1AW/8.

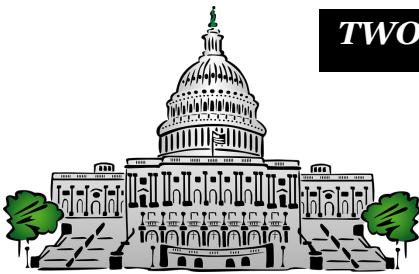
In addition, every field volunteer and member you work throughout the year count towards point totals. 71 field positions have points assigned, ranging from, for example, one point for being an ARRL member, 12 points for

being an ARES Emergency Coordinator (EC) up to 300 points if you're fortunate to have a QSO with the ARRL President. VOTA logging will be all digital, with ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) as the tracker of accumulated points. Files can be uploaded in ADIF format from all common logging programs.



**VOLUNTEERS  
ON THE AIR | 2023**

As this newsletter is being prepared, final touches are being put into place for assigned weeks for each state. South Carolina will kick off for the Roanoke Division the first week of February, and Virginia the week of April 12. Because of dates for other major contests, the full schedule for the four states in the Roanoke Division will be announced shortly. To learn more about this exciting contest, go the main VOTA webpage at: [www.arrl.org/vota](http://www.arrl.org/vota) and get ready to have lots of fun in 2023.



## TWO KEY AMATEUR RADIO BILLS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

As the 117th session of Congress was coming to a close just before Christmas, two bills favorable to Amateur Radio were filed. U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH) introduced H.R. 9670, *The Amateur Radio Preparedness Act*, and Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ) filed *The ARRL Symbol Rate Bill*. Rep. Johnson's bill represents three years of discussions with Congressmen and their staffs to develop language for antenna relief for those who live in communities with private CC&Rs—Codes, Covenants and Restrictions. Strongly opposed by Home Owner Associations (HOAs) in the past, the new bill develops specific template designs which could be acceptable to those trade associations which represent over 72 million homeowners in HOAs. Rep. Lesko's bill calls upon the FCC to take action on the 2016 petition filed by ARRL to eliminate the maximum symbol rate limit of 300 baud while adding a bandwidth limitation of 2.8 kHz for protection of existing digital communications. If passed, the FCC under the bill would have to make a determination within six months of enactment. Both Reps. Johnson and Lesko plan to refile their respective bills in the upcoming 118th Congress which begins in January. ARRL will have a program in the new year to encourage members to reach out to their Congressmen to support and even co-sponsor these two pieces of legislation.

## NORTH CAROLINA STUDENTS TALK LIVE TO ASTRONAUT ON INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION ON AMATEUR RADIO - MORE EVENTS SCHEDULED IN 2023

**S**tudents from the class of STEM teacher Dan Hopson, K4CF, talked to astronaut Bob Hines, KI5RQT, live aboard the International Space Station (ISS) during a pass on October 11. Twenty selected students at the Harris Middle School in Spruce Pine, North Carolina asked questions during the 13 minutes the ISS passed overhead at 17,500 MPH. The event was livestreamed to all schools in Mitchell County. Attending the event were Roanoke Division Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP, North Carolina Section Manager Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, and Mitchell County school board members and county commissioners. The event was covered by Asheville's WLOS-TV, local radio stations WKYK and WTOE, and appeared on the front page of the *Mitchell News-Journal*. The news story which aired on WLOS-TV can be viewed at: <https://wlos.com/news/local/amateur-radio-on-the-international-space-station-harris-middle-school-dan-hopson-sen-ralph-hise-mitchell-county-commissioners-spruce-pine-town-council-members>. (Photos courtesy of WLOS-TV)



with  
Astronaut Robert Hines



These three events will take place sometime between July and December, 2023. Exact dates and times are announced by NASA about a week before the actual event.

**LEFT**-A student asks a question of astronaut Bob Hines. **RIGHT**-STEM teacher Dan Hopson, K4CF, is interviewed by WLOS-TV.



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE JANUARY 4TH



# ARRL FOUNDATION

The January 4, 2023 deadline for filing an application for a scholarship from ARRL is rapidly approaching. The current application cycle will be for the 2023-2024 academic year. The application requires inclusion of recommendations, estimated financial need and proof of arrangement for transcripts to be forwarded so applicants should allow time to make sure everything is completed by the deadline. Awards are announced in the May to June time frame.

encouraged to apply now regardless of what will be available. Licensed Amateur Radio operators attending 2-year, 4-year and graduate higher education institutions are eligible, and ARRL membership is not required for many scholarships, but some do require League membership. Specific eligibility requirements can be found on the scholarship website at [www.arrl.org/scholarships](http://www.arrl.org/scholarships). Fourteen Roanoke Division Hams were awarded ARRL scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year.

In 2022, 137 scholarships were given totaling over \$925,000., ranging from \$500. to \$25,000. The number of scholarships and available amounts will be announced early in 2023, but eligible candidates are

If you know a Ham currently enrolled in a college or university setting, or a high school senior who may already have been admitted to an institution of higher learning, please encourage them to apply.



### FORMER ARRL PRESIDENT HARRY DANNALS W2HD (SK)



Former ARRL President Harry Dannals, W2HD, passed away August 30th in Charlottesville, Virginia at the age of 95. Harry was President of the League from 1972 to 1982, tying a record for longest serving post WWII president. Originally from New York, Harry and his wife, Kay, retired to Charlottesville in the 1990s, where he became an active member in the local Albemarle Amateur Radio Club. During his tenure, ARRL helped U.S. Hams get access to the 30, 17 and 12 meter WARC bands. Roanoke Division Director Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, and Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP, represented ARRL at Harry's memorial service. Harry's wife predeceased him in 2015. Thoughts go to Harry's family members, including his sons Bob, W2GG, and Thomas, W2TUK, a former callsign of Harry's.

**LEFT**—Harry at the time he was ARRL President. **RIGHT**—Roanoke Division Director Jim Boehner presented a certificate of appreciation to Harry in 2018





## VOLUNTEER MONITORS ISSUE COMMENDATION

ARRL's Volunteer Monitoring (VM) program is mostly known for its effectiveness in identifying improper on air operating procedures, whether negligent or willful. Another part of its mission is to cite exemplary operation. Congratulations to a Ham in Columbia, South Carolina for assisting the Richland County Emergency Operations Center. Such good behavior notices should remind us all to be at our best in setting a positive example for those listening. The VM program replaced the venerable Official Observer (OO) program, but added modern recording and scope analyses to confirm evidence of infractions. However, citing good operators is still a hallmark as part of self regulations of our bands.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A 30 SECOND ELEVATOR SPEECH

For years business consultants have advised people to develop what is known as a 30 second elevator speech. The premise is that you are riding in an elevator with a stranger who asks what do you do. You only have 30 seconds to give it because you or the other passenger will get off the elevator by then. An elevator speech is a handy way to convey quickly and precisely what you do.

All of us should have a 30 second elevator speech for Amateur Radio. This is especially important as we meet or address people who may not know what is Ham Radio, or have an outdated image of it in their mind. You never know if someone you meet is a member of your local zoning board before whom antenna variance requests go, or on the board of a local charity looking to donate money to worthy community projects.

The following is a suggestion—you have to make it your own, but this captures the current state of Amateur Radio: ***"Amateur Radio, also known by its nickname 'Ham Radio', is a proven century old system of reliable two-way communications. There are over three quarters of a million federally licensed operators in the U.S. Not only do they provide emergency communications at no cost to the public, but experimentation with communications technologies is encouraged. Many communications we enjoy today were invented by or perfected through Amateur Radio. Finally, it's the original social network and a satisfying hobby. In 21st century terms we can be called federally licensed communications volunteers."***

## Happy New Year

And We'll Look For You In 2023 In

The **Volunteers On The Air (VOTA)** Contest

Follow us on the Roanoke Division website at: [www.arrl-roanoke.com](http://www.arrl-roanoke.com)

and on our Facebook page **ARRL**

**Roanoke Division**

73 de

Jim Boehner,

N2ZZ

Director

[n2zz@arrl.org](mailto:n2zz@arrl.org)

Bill Morine,

N2COP

Vice Director

[n2cop@arrl.org](mailto:n2cop@arrl.org)

