



ARRL VA Section Manager's Listening Tour Summer 2026

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ARRL VA Section Manager



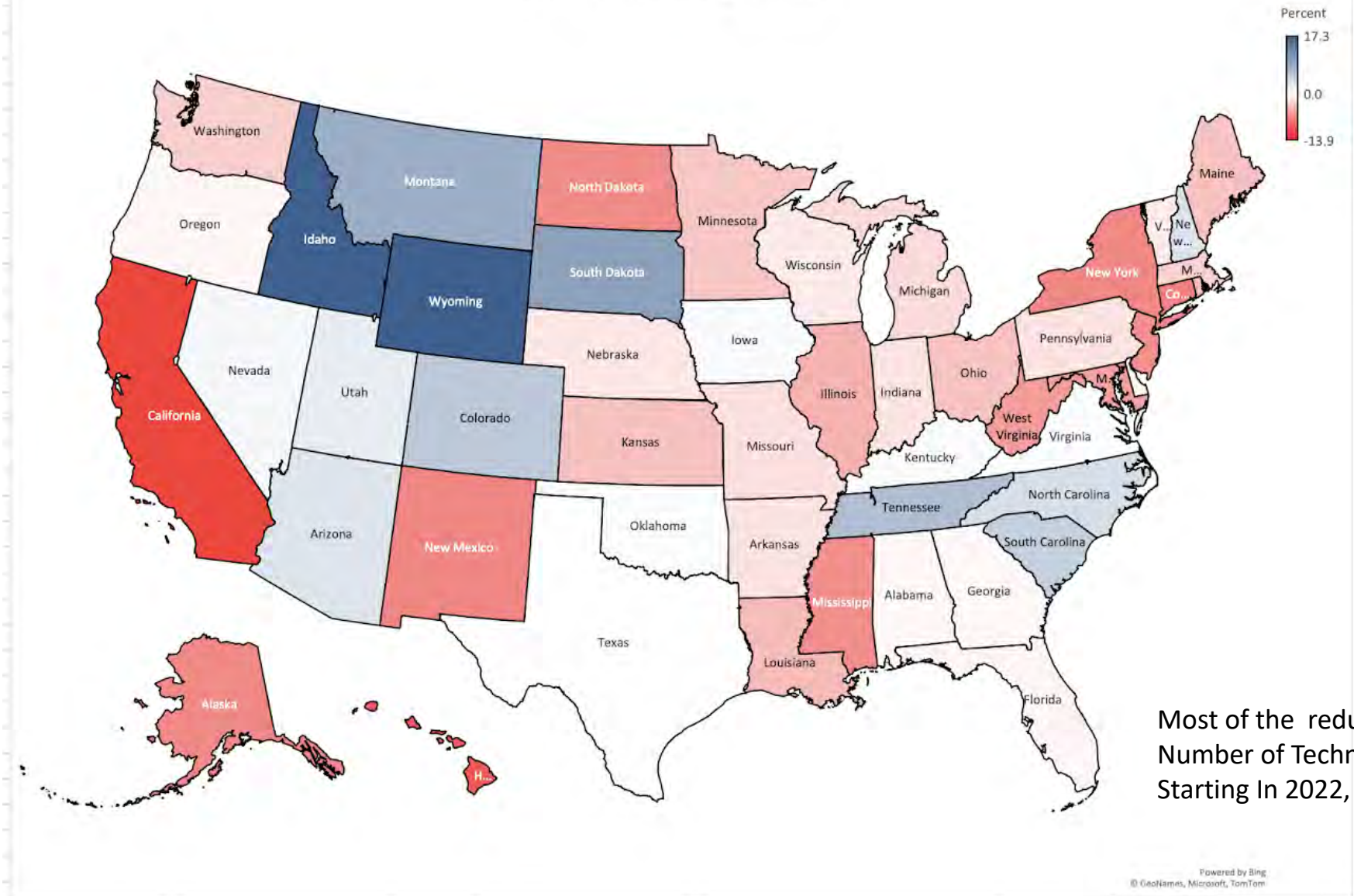
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Overhead Question #1

- What is the current state of the Hobby?
 - Are the number of licensed Amateur Radio Operators (AROs) growing or declining in Virginia?
 - How does the number of Hams in VA compare to say other states?
 - What percentage of licensed AROs are “Active”?

Let's have a discussion

Amateur Radio Operators Percent Change
December 2019 through June 2024



Most of the reductions (red) are Reductions in the Number of Technician class licenses. Starting In 2022, FCC instituted a renewal fee

The State of the Hobby Hams by Select States

As of 2023

Rank	State	Novice	Tech	General	Advanced	Extra	Total	% of total Hams
	US TOTAL	6,030	379,805	185,219	33,696	153,673	758,423	
		0.80%	50.08%	24.42%	4.44%	20.26%	100.00%	
1	California	703	60,458	19,674	3,565	15,593	99,993	13.2%
2	Texas	294	27,126	13,194	2,360	11,174	54,148	7.1%
3	Florida	451	18,585	11,787	2,617	9,960	43,400	5.7%
4	Washington	194	19,038	8,118	1,191	5,721	34,262	4.5%
5	Ohio	327	12,453	7,381	1,329	6,108	27,598	3.6%
6	New York	419	12,069	6,851	1,413	5,941	26,693	3.5%
7	Pennsylvania	285	10,873	6,298	1,350	5,567	24,373	3.2%
8	North Carolina	152	10,433	5,851	1,049	5,102	22,587	3.0%
9	Arizona	113	11,266	5,109	1,016	4,550	22,054	2.9%
10	Michigan	184	9,922	5,339	1,029	4,647	21,121	2.8%
11	Oregon	103	11,463	4,994	727	3,589	20,876	2.8%
12	Virginia	184	9,536	5,338	973	4,780	20,811	2.7%
27	South Carolina	64	4,778	2,683	497	2,325	10,347	1.4%
37	West Virginia	42	3,148	1,450	217	1,248	6,105	0.8%
48	Rhode Island	22	867	491	95	452	1,927	0.3%
49	Delaware	20	788	499	87	413	1,807	0.2%
50	North Dakota	10	773	431	65	296	1,575	0.2%



Bottom Line: In Virginia (Stats as of Mar 2026)

- The numbers we know:
 - 20,203 in FCC's dB; 50% are Techs
 - 4,279 are ARRL members
 - 4,273 are members of ARRL Affiliated Clubs
 - Of these 4,273 Club members, 2,715 (64%) are ARRL members
 - 1,844 ARRL members do not receive Division & Section newsletters
 - Annually,
 - 800 newly licensed Hams are minted; more adults than youth
 - 1,200 Hams depart the hobby – some SKs but most are “new” Techs
- The numbers we can deduct:
 - By the numbers, the hobby is declining, and aging at a rate of 0.5% annually
 - Many of the Tech license class operators depart rather renew
 - At best, half – 10,000 licensed Hams in Virginia are “active” at any time
- 2012 Mustang Odometer Reading: 77,500 miles 😊



Overhead Question #2

- How has ARRL helped you in your Amateur Radio Journey?

Let's have a discussion



ARRL Mission Statement



ARRL's mission is to promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio.

ARRL's Five Pillars:

- Public Service
- Advocacy
- Education
- Technology
- Membership



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ARRL Membership Benefits

Benefits

- 4 digital magazines
QST • *On the Air* • *QEX* • *NCJ*
- Periodicals archive and other members-only website content
- E-newsletters*
- Product Review and ARRL Lab testing of equipment

*Must "Opt-in to receive"



Services

- ARRL VEC license exam sessions, and license renewal service
- Logbook of The World® – LoTW®
- ARRL Lab, technical and RFI support
- Outgoing QSL Service
- Regulatory Information Service (help with rules and regs)
- W1HQ Radio Lab and showcase
- Project Alpha Museum/Library

Programs

- 2,500 Affiliated Radio Clubs
- ARRL Field Day
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service® – ARES®
- National Traffic System
- ARRL Learning Center training • webinars
- ARRL Contests
- ARRL Awards DXCC • Worked All States & more
- W1AW bulletins • code practice • guest ops
- ARRL Field Organization: support for Amateur Radio



ARRL America250 Worked All States

A Year-Long Worked-All-States Operating Event Celebrating the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



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The Year of the Club WAS250 Award Plaque

- First Step: contact all 50 States in 2026 – individuals and Clubs
- Add Endorsements Awards, once initial WAS250 achieved
 - Contact all States working as W1AW/P
 - Contact ARRL Affiliated clubs in each of the 50 states
 - Contact all 50 States on CW, Phone and Digital for a TRIPLE PLAY
- Award via LoTW
 - Establish a new LoTW WAS award account (call it WAS250) and set the QSO dates as 1/1/26 thru 12/31/26



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WAS250 Progress – de WA8AHZ

Browser tabs: arrl project alpha - Search, Introducing Radio Alpha, the ARRL..., ARRL's Logbook of The World, Your Logbook QSOs

URL: https://lotw.arrl.org/lotwuser/qsos?qso_page=0&awg_id=WAS&acct=2

	Call sign	Worked	Date/Time	Band	Mode	Freq	QSL	WAS
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/7	2026-05-10 05:40:00	40M	FT8	7.07587		
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/8	2026-05-09 19:48:00	40M	FT8	7.07583		
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/8	2026-05-07 21:37:44	40M	SSB	7.24000		
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/7	2026-05-07 21:30:16	15M	FT8	21.07613	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Nevada: Mixed; 15M; Digital; FT8; 15M Digital; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/0	2026-05-05 00:30:48	20M	FT8	14.07561	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Dakota: 20M Digital
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/1	2026-04-29 20:07:59	30M	FT8	10.13768	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire: Mixed; 30M; Digital; FT8; 30M Digital; Triple Play
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/3	2026-04-29 03:21:03	40M	FT8	7.07625		
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/9	2026-04-28 01:16:48	30M	FT8	10.13745	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin: Mixed; 30M; Digital; FT8; 30M Digital; Triple Play
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/9	2026-04-25 23:46:05	20M	SSB	14.26750	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin: 20M Phone
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/3	2026-04-20 00:57:08	40M	SSB	7.19400	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delaware: Mixed; 40M; Phone; 40M Phone; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/7	2026-04-09 17:55:03	20M	FT8	14.07532	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington: Mixed; 20M; Digital; FT8; 20M Digital; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/5	2026-04-09 17:39:00	20M	FT8	14.07667	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Mexico: 20M; 20M Digital; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/6	2026-04-07 01:02:01	20M	FT8	14.07584		
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/4	2026-04-07 00:46:30	40M	FT8	7.07515	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina: Mixed; 40M; Digital; FT8; 40M Digital; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/0	2026-03-26 21:05:31	15M	FT8	21.07612	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North Dakota: 15M; 15M Digital; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/4	2026-03-23 23:14:45	20M	FT8	14.07555	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky: Mixed; 20M; Digital; FT8; 20M Digital; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/0	2026-03-23 23:12:15	20M	FT8	14.07622	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota: Mixed; 20M; Digital; FT8; 20M Digital; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/7	2026-02-26 19:38:00	17M	FT8	18.10238	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arizona: 17M; 17M Digital
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/8	2026-02-23 21:41:00	30M	FT8	10.13772	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan: Mixed; 30M; Digital; FT8; 30M Digital; Triple Play
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/8	2026-02-22 20:37:47	20M	FT8	14.07615	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan: Mixed; 20M; Digital; FT8; 20M Digital; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/5	2026-02-20 20:12:30	20M	FT8	14.07479	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas: Mixed; 20M; Digital; FT8; 20M Digital; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/4	2026-02-16 01:15:34	40M	FT8	7.07477	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Florida: Mixed; 40M; Digital; FT8; 40M Digital; Triple Play; 5-Band
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/1	2026-02-15 11:00:15	80M	FT8	3.57483		
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/4	2026-02-09 20:45:15	20M	FT8	14.07463	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alabama: 20M Digital
Details	WA8AHZ	W1AW/1	2026-02-05 18:43:15	20M	FT8	14.07654	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vermont: FT8; 20M Digital; Digital; Triple Play

[Submit WAS Credit Changes](#) [Next](#)

Most recent QSO record received 2026-05-10 15:07:26Z

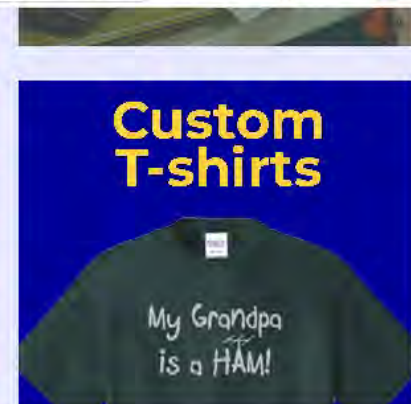
Select QSOs to List

Call sign worked: May use wildcards (? and *)

Your call sign:

Submit Query Form

Common Queries





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ARRL Affiliated Club Benefits

- Club Commission Program
- ARRL e-mail Forwarding Service
- Referrals of prospective radio amateurs: New Amateur Reports
- Help planning and advertising hamfests
- Access to mailing lists
- 50% discount on Club ads in QST
- Special Service Clubs
- Club Call Signs
- New Amateur Reports for clubs
- ARRL Library Set
- Club Gavel Competition (Club competition in select ARRL DX Contests)
- Annual Report



Overhead Question #3

- How can the Section help you in your Amateur Radio Journey?
Let's have a discussion



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Virginia Section Leadership Team (as of 15 May 2026)

Section Manager – Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ

Executive Committee

Assistant Section Managers

Ed Gibbs*, KW4GF – Principal ASM & Teacher Ed

Bob Myers*, K2TV – Special Projects

Terry Buzzard, KA8TNF – EmCOMM

Gene Rosenbluth, K4EWR – At Large Membership

Senior Leadership Team

Section Emergency Coordinator – Terry Buzzard, KA8TNF

Affiliated Club Coordinator* (**Interim**) – Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ

Section Traffic Manager -- George Stone, WA1JQC

Public Information Coordinator* – Wayne Rash, N4HCR

State Government Liaison – Craig Kendall, WA3RGH

Youth (and Scouting) Coordinator – Keith Oliver, KZ4DQ

Technical Coordinator – **Vacant**

Webmaster* – John Best, KC4MEC

*Prior Appointment



Section Manager's Strategic Plan 2026

- Build an engaged SM Team and fill vacant volunteer staff positions
- Establish comms with ARRL members who don't belong to VA Affiliated Clubs
- Grow Club & ARRL membership, especially with new Hams
- Maintain strong relationships at VA Dept of EM and VOAD levels
- Continue to build the VA ARES program such that City/County/Town EMs know what capabilities are available with ARES involvement vice other EMCOMM organizations
- Better coordinate ARES and Section Traffic Manager activities, and incorporate the new developments of digital traffic and speeds
- Enhance relationships between Scouting and VA Affiliated Clubs
- Host VA teachers at Field Day and other events; promote teachers attend the ARRL Teachers' Institute