

# Virginia Oath Keepers

"I will Support and Defend the Constitution of the United States"

## Oath Taker's News

### [Join Us](#)

**Do you promise to support and defend the US. Constitution? Become a Virginia Oath Keeper!**

**Better yet, become one of the last 30 [Founding Members](#)**

### [Meeting & Event Calendar](#)

**Come to a meeting near you, a training weekend, or help spread the word at a fair, gun, or prepper show!**

[Get on the public email list:](#) Text "VAOK" to 22828

### [Conference Calls](#)

**Second Thursday 1900**

### [Radio Nets](#)

**Participate or listen to our radio nets.**

- **Statewide HF Net: First and Third Thursday 2100 3.838 (Will move up the band for QRM)**
- **Local VHF-UHF Nets: Click [Radio Nets link](#) or contact your chapter**
- **[AmRRON.com](#) nets National Prepper comms organization**

## Action Items

Sign up for the NE-SE training weekend in October. Email The SE or NE Regional Coordinators to reserve a Saturday dinner. This training may be postponed due to weather. Stay tuned to the website for details.

We need volunteers!!! Please contact the [State President](#):

- State Treasurer
- State CRT Director
- NW Regional Coordinator
- NE Communications Coordinator
- South-Side Hampton Roads Chapter Leaders

Prep for the Hurricane. See the email sent out on Oct3. We will need HF operators statewide. We will run an HF test during our normal net time Thursday Oct. 6. See the sidebar for details. Please check in or listen. Send a email to our Winkink address. Go to the Hurricane Watch Net at <http://www.hwn.org/> for interesting ham radio operator info.

## VAOK News

### New Chapters!

Welcome to our newest chapter in the Chesterfield-Dinwiddie area. Sara E. is the new chapter leader. Join them! Contact Sara at [paintedges@yahoo.com](mailto:paintedges@yahoo.com)

There is talk of a chapter starting in New Kent area. Please email Jeff, the [SE Regional Coordinator](#) if you have any with interest in joining a new chapter in these two areas.

We have had a few new and existing Hams join the VAOK. WELCOME!

## [Start a Chapter](#)

**New chapters are springing up all over the Old Dominion. Start one near you!**

**Determine your region and contact your regional coordinator.**

## [Update Your Info](#)

**Click to email the Membership Coordinator.** Be sure to add your Region, Chapter, Call sign/Class

- Provide this to both state and chapter leadership (see Aug 2014 "Comms Corner").

## State Board of Directors

[Mike Koeniger](#), State President

[Nik Harvey](#), State Vice President

[Roy Hutchinson](#), State Sergeant at Arms

[Amy Rayle](#), State Secretary/Treasurer

[Milan Sturgis](#), Director - Legislative Action and Policy

[Vacant](#), Director - Community Resource Teams

[Rob Peters](#), Director - Medical and Preparedness

[Johnny Beben](#), Director - Training and Tactics

[Jeff Sullivan](#), Director - Media Outreach

## State Officers

[John Ratliff](#), Southwestern Regional Coordinator

[Vacant](#), Northwestern Regional Coordinator

[Sean Docherty](#), Northeastern Regional Coordinator

[Tim Carpenter](#), Southeastern Regional Coordinator

[Willie Eberlein](#), Director of Family Safety

[Mike Pandolf](#), Communications Coordinator

[Barry Joyce](#), Merchandise Coordinator

[Mark Matthews](#), Membership Coordinator

[Micah Eubanks](#), Social Media Outreach

[Jeff Sullivan](#), Webmaster

# From the Office of the VP

<sarcasm>

The search for insurance has been fruitless. I can only attribute the lack of cooperation to the connection with national. I contacted 5 different companies from all over the country and no one could underwrite us. I still think that when we incorporate, I few are operating under a new name, we will have more success.

The BoD decided to go ahead with retaining the tax attorney, so the work toward our C3 will start moving much faster. I had a computer take a dirt nap on me, and of course I didn't back up my data, so I am starting from scratch with collecting the info for the lawyer. As part of that rebuild I also had to rebuild my address books on email. So I may be sending out random test emails from time to time. If you are a board member, I will need your info again for the lawyer, sorry. I'll be in contact via email for that info.

We are still down 2 BoD positions, the treasurer, and a CRT director. For info on the rolls of these director positions, feel free to contact me, or consult the bylaws, or both. If you are interested in either of these jobs, or would like to recommend anyone, please contact me at [VP@VAOK.org](mailto:VP@VAOK.org).

We do have some good news, we now have a North West Regional Coordinator. Please join me in congratulating Scott McCay on his new roll. Scott has served as the Sgt. At arms for the Fredericksburg chapter, and has been a stalwart in the OMG chapter in their times of great need. Scott is a solid, and dependable member of the Virginia Oath Keepers, and I know with his leadership, the north west region will flourish.

I will close with the news that we are working on getting banners to the chapters that have reached their one year mark of consecutive meetings. This is a tremendous milestone, and we are all proud of the many active chapters we have in VAOK. My email box and phone are always open for questions, or concerns. I am here to serve you all, and I thank you for that honor. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do for any of you.

In Liberty

Nik Harvey

## Comms Corner

The Black Art of HF

Last month we discussed short range radio communications using VHF and UHF. This type of communication is straight forward and

intuitive. Distance, power, and a clear line of sight are the main variables that affect communication using these radios.

What if you want to communicate across the state, nation, or world? How about communicating with your friend on the other side of the ridge??? For this, VHF/UHF is useless. Another solution is required.

This is the challenging realm of HF. Depending on atmospheric conditions; HF signals will reflect off of the upper atmosphere and return to earth nearby or many miles away. In fact, these signals can reflect up and down several times covering many thousands of miles.

So...how do we make use of these reflections? Well...it depends. It depends on the frequency of the radio waves and a number of other factors that change from year to year, season to season, day to day and even hour by hour.

In general, the lower the frequency of the wave, the better it will reflect. This is why the higher frequency signals are used for satellite communications. VHF signals and above just pass through the atmosphere and

off into space. A satellite is really just an expensive repeater. HF uses lower more reflective bands of frequencies. The bands of frequencies are referred to using their wavelength (the reciprocal of freq). So the 160 meter band has the lowest frequency and is the most reflective. The 10m band is therefore the least reflective. This wavelength stuff is fairly straight forward. The other factors that affect propagation are much much larger...like planet and sun sized!

Understanding the effects of space weather is where the black arts reside! On the daylight side of the globe the energy from the sun is strong and it ionizes the air molecules in the upper atmosphere making it more reflective to the higher frequency bands. Therefore, the 20 meter band does well during the day for our region and beyond but falls flat at night. 40 m does well day and evening in the summer but is poor in the evening in the winter. 80 m does well at night. Taking advantage of this variability is the challenge and the reason we need to practice and test our capabilities.

There are resources on the web that can help you understand the nuances of propagation. There are also some that gauge the present conditions so you can make good band choices. A couple of these are:

<http://www.bandcondx.com/>

[http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/HF\\_Systems/6/6/1](http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/HF_Systems/6/6/1)

The first link give you the quality on the bands last hour with some discussion and the second shows you what bands are propagating to where. (Center at Washington DC).

We must work on building our capabilities prior to our next emergency.

Next Month HF modes of operation

STAY TUNED!

73 DE KW4MK