

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

On September 9-11, SHTF!!!

Join us for the SW Training Weekend!

There will be a bugout scenario with a radio interoperability exercise with AmRRON. See the Exercise Plan below.

Sign up soon for the NE-SE training weekend in October. Stay tuned to the website for details

AmRRON Interoperability Exercise Sept 9-11

All persons are requested to participate in some or all of this exercise. See the Exercise Plan below.

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

[Check out the new Comms section on the VAOK.org website](#)

VAOK News

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

AmRRON Interoperability Exercise, Sept 9-11

From AmRRON

From 9-11 September, AMRRON will hold a nationwide Prepper communications exercise. It will simulate regional phone and internet outages, HF and VHF voice/digital nets will run per the AMRRON signals operating instruction (SOI). CH3 nets will also be run. As an interoperability test, Virginia AMRRON operators will pass exercise traffic to Virginia Oath Keeper and other radio

[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

operators. For additional information, see

<https://amrron.com/comms-s-o-i/> and

<https://amrron.com/communications-resources/ch3-project/>

From VAOK State Comms Coordinator:

We recommend that all VAOK members obtain a copy of the AmRRON SOI, It can be downloaded at the AmRRON site for a small donation. This is an important resource if SHTF and there is a lot of detail in the SOI that we can't cover here.

VAOK at the SW training site and elsewhere will be using this SOI and attempt to link up with the AmRRON SIGCEN (Signal Collection Center). The intent is to send drill messages back and forth to AmRRON. Should SHTF, AmRRON will be an important resource for VAOK.

Please make every effort to participate in the HAM and CH3 nets regardless of your location. If you are not licensed, you can always listen and use the CH3 networks. Also, we know this is short notice but Chapter and Comms leaders should organize to run this exercise locally.

Here is how it will work for VAOK. VHF-FRS operators will create SHTF messages to transmit to the local VAOK HQ station. These messages will be relayed to AmRRON. AmRRON will send messages back to VAOK HQ and VAOK HQ will relay these messages to the VAOK VHF-FRS operators on regularly scheduled nets. This may include the Apple Orchard Mountain repeater net.

VAOK will run scheduled nets at the SW training site, and if locally organized, statewide per the VAOK Comms plan.

VAOK Schedule/Freq:

VHF 0800 and 1600 EDT/ 147.465, FRS 0815 and 1615 EDT/Ch1, and if HF is possible HF Phone 0900 and 2100 EDT/7.238 LSB, & HF Digital 0940 and 2140 EDT/7.120 USB, Repeater net 0830 and 1630 Apple Orchard Mountain Bedford Repeater 146.685 +offset 100Hz tone.

Please contact comms@virginiaoathkeepers.org or vaok@winlink.org (Subject line must contain [/WL2K](#) for winlink) if you have questions or if you will be running an HF headquarters station locally and would like to interoperate on a VAOK HF net.

Membership, Mark Mathews KC4ROS

Fellow Patriots,

As many of you know, in February this year I was asked to take on the role of Membership Coordinator. The day I accepted, one gentlemanly board member told me "Congratulations! ...and you have my condolences." Yeah, he was being humorous as he tends to be, but there was a sort of serious side to it as well. Leadership at any state level can take an enormous amount of time, and mine is no exception. Since I've been doing this for over 6 months now, I have streamlined my average time involved in

maintaining membership matters to 10-15 hours per week. I'm not using this preface to toot my own horn. Rather, to let you all know the hours that can be involved in VAOK for just one person, one that has less responsibility & time involved than some others.

We have close to 40 folks in leadership across the Commonwealth, everyone up to & including the President being 100% volunteer. That's a ton of time involved in trying to make Virginia Oath Keepers work effectively... for you! But who are you? I'm pretty sure you're the Constitutional, patriotic kind of people, otherwise you wouldn't be reading this, right?

So my question that all this is leading up to is... Why are you not a member yet? Is it because of privacy concerns? The membership list is encrypted & accessible to only me, and a handful of leaders on a need-to-know-basis. Is it because of cost? You can join for as little as \$3 per month! If there are other reasons, I would love to know so I can address them.

I would like to gather groups of patriotic people in close proximity to each other for the benefit of networking & chapter/membership building. There may be a dozen people of like mind in your geographic area that you don't even know exist.

Therefore, TO DO

Non-members - - send your

- 1) Street Name (no house number)
- 2) Zip Code
- 3) E-mail Address

to me at membership@virginiaoathkeepers.org. I will determine if there are others in your area and get you connected without creating security concerns.

Remember, this organization is nothing without freedom loving individuals like you that join together to educate our oath takers & fight usurpation at every level.

For Liberty,

Mark Matthews

Membership Coordinator

membership@virginiaoathkeepers.org

P.S. We only have about 30 Founding Memberships available for \$300. Get one now before it goes to a regular Lifetime Membership for \$500!

See this link for a membership level chart: <http://virginiaoathkeepers.org/membership-level-chart/>

Comms Corner, Mike Pandolf KW4MK

Radio Bands, Modes, and Listening; Part one

To most people, radio communications is a bit of a mystery. Is it science? Is it art? It's a bit of both! To make listening and operating easier, these next issues of "Comms Corner" endeavor to dispel some of the mystery and get you started on the road to off grid communications.

Not all radios are the same. Some can communicate over long distances and others can only make it a city block or so. This is determined by radio wave properties, propagation, and the terrain. Higher frequencies (VHF/UHF) are "[line-of-sight](#)" and are only useful for short distance communications. Mountains, buildings, or the horizon between line-of-sight transceivers will block the signal. On the other hand, lower frequency waves can bounce off the ionosphere, the earth, and over mountains to provide a link when line-of-sight waves are blocked or the transceivers are distant. Therefore, low frequency (HF) waves can travel to the other side of a ridge, state wide, and beyond. We will focus on line-of-sight systems this month and move on to HF systems next month.

Short range VHF/UHF radio communications is the critical link for your local chapter, family, friends, and general area should the grid go down or if you are operating in the field. Therefore, at a minimum, all VAOK members should be able to listen to VHF/UHF bands, use FRS/GMRS, and endeavor to earn a Ham radio license. Remember, just the ability to listen can provide vital information. You can monitor government agencies, listen to Public Safety announcements, or receive instructions from VAOK leadership.

For VHF/UHF, you need some sort of power supply, a receiver or Ham transceiver, and a list of your local frequencies. We recommend that your power supply be off grid rechargeable and able to support all of your battery powered devices. A license is not required to purchase or listen to a ham radio transceiver. One of these transceivers or a cheap analog scanner can be used for listening to VAOK and many other signals. However, If you want to monitor modern public service digital and trunking channels you need a more expensive P25 tier 2 capable receiver. We recommend: Whistler WS1080. Municipal frequencies are pre-loaded into P25 scanners and Non-VAOK frequencies are available by searching the Internet. The frequencies that VAOK uses are available to members through the local chapter or via VAOK comms team members.

Equipment-wise, VHF/UHF is pretty straightforward science. The more power you use and the higher or better the antenna, the further you can communicate. The FCC designated services cross over a bit in capability but generally:

Service	Power/antenna	Range
FRS/GMRS/MIRS	0.05 to 5+ W / stubby	Blocks to a few miles or so
Ham VHF/UHF	0 to 1500 W / any	Nearby to the horizon

As you can see, Ham radio provides the best options for range and flexibility. This is why VAOK prefers Ham radio. In addition, all radios are not the same. Like most things, you get what you pay for. The cheaper Chinese radios such as Baofeng are great for the budget but are difficult to program in the field without a computer. The more expensive Japanese radios are far more user-friendly and robust.

Action Items:

Purchase a set of FRS/GMRS transceivers for your family and practice with them.

Purchase a P25 receiver and/or a VHF/UHF Ham handheld transceiver

Obtain the frequency lists and program your radios. Ask your chapter or the VAOK Comms team for help.

Start listening; You may be able to hear VAOK nets. See the event calendar.

Earn your Technician Class Ham License

Next Month; "The Black Art of HF"

STAY TUNED!

73 DE KW4MK