

Virginia Section Manager's Report for May 2008

This is my first report since assuming office on April 1st. I can say that the first two months have been hectic. We expanded the ARES program to include ASEC's. Then we brought all of the ASECs together in Charlottesville for a weekend to help plan the future of ARES in the Section. Ron Sokol, K4KHZ, (our SEC) and I are excited about the ideas and energy at that meeting. We are working on the SOP for the Section, an MOU with VDEM, and liability insurance for our ARES members. Stay tuned to our web page at www.aresva.org for the announcements as these parts of the ARES program progress.

Are you ready for Field Day? Many clubs and groups get together and turn Field Day into a radio, fun, and food event. Maybe you will participate with a club or your ARES group. Perhaps you are just going to work Field Day with a few friends. Or even work the weekend from the comfort of your own shack. However you plan to play, I hope you have fun. For the groups that wish to send the Section Manager a message for their bonus points, send the message to my winlink address at w4cac@winlink.org. Thanks to our ASEC for digital operations, Earl Moore, KR4MA, my winlink account is set up and working.

At the end of April and beginning of May, our section was devastated by several storms that spawned tornados. These tornadoes caused major property damage and several hundred people were injured. In several cases amateur radio operators responded to help the localities struck by these tornadoes. In my opinion, this is what ARES is all about. Organize, train, and be ready to respond in times of need. Thanks to all of those amateur radio operators who participated in the tornado activations.

I mentioned our web pages earlier. Please stay tuned to www.aresva.org/aresva.html and www.arrlva.us to keep abreast of the happenings in the Section. Dan Edwards, AG4YU, is our webmaster and he has been working feverishly to keep up with the articles and changes we have been sending to him. On the web pages you can find the STM report, the SEC report, as well as articles about the mobile command post rally in Chesterfield on May 21st. Has your group or club done something you think the rest of the section would like to know about? Send your article or information to Joe Safranek, K4JJS. Joe is our PIO and can be found at k4jjs@arrl.net.

Hope to work you for Field Day. I'll be at the Portsmouth ARC Field Day site. Look for W4POX.

73

Carl Clements, W4CAC
Virginia Section Manager