

ARC-SHORTS

MAY 2014

Club Repeaters: 147.315 (PL 107.2), 444.6 (PL107.2), 224.82 (PL107.2), 53.13 (PL107.2) 927.6 (-25Mhz, PL107.2), and 1282.600 (PL 107.2), DSTAR 145.38Mhz, 442.060, and 1284.600 ALL AR UP AND RUNNING – HAM IT UP! Get on the air!

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Our next meeting is **May 9, 2014** at 3600 Wheeler Ave. Just off Duke Street in Alexandria about 1 block west of Quaker Lane. We start the meeting at 7PM with our program and follow with a short business meeting.

This month's program will be the Empire of the Air DVD and some Field Day planning

Dinner prior to the meeting will be at Atlantis (Bradlee shopping center of Rt. 7 just east of 395) with folks starting to gather about 5:30. Our guest speakers get a meal on the club.

MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Kim gave a great program on the unfortunate disappearance of shortwave broadcast radio. VOA is still working but like most other countries they have gone to satellite and the internet. Most of us remember listening on old receivers to the international broadcasts and learning a great deal about how the rest of the world handles the news and shares a bit of their culture. It was truly the magic of radio.

PRESIDENT'S column

There is an old curse that says "May you live in interesting times."

Interesting times can be good and bad. There are interesting events happening this month, with the Dayton Hamvention being one of them, and I will be going for the first time. I hope the weather is nice enough to wander the outdoor section for a while. There are some vendors and products I want to see, and I will be collecting brochures to bring back. I will have to buy something though, or I will be disappointed.

Also interesting in a good way is the current ongoing attempt to build a network using routers resulting in a long distance link. I know some of our club members are participating in that. Hopefully, Larry KK4CBL can keep us up to date. An interesting new set of offerings in the VHF/UHF bands has come out from Yaesu. Anyone who has one, please send Rick N4ASX a review.

For that matter, anyone who has a new piece of equipment, or newly introduced piece of equipment, please write a review for inclusion in ARC Shorts.

Interesting in a bad way is the way the sun is starting to act. Scientists are fearing another minimum, but some alarmists are talking about the possibility of another "Maunder Minimum", a period a few centuries ago with no sunspots whatsoever. This would affect all HF operators, QRP operators such as myself the most. In preparation for this upcoming minimum, of whatever size, I have been using CW a little more, and hope active with it. I've been told that 5w CW = 100w SSB.

In conclusion, I would like to thank various individuals in the club who have helped in various ways, such as taking the time to mentor new hams in the art of HF operations, and putting in the effort to help hams test their antennas with equipment not everyone can afford. If anyone has questions, raise them on our nets, or in the meetings, and you should be able to find the help you need.

73,

-- Tom Kirby

<tkirby@atlantech.net>

Field Day

Jack and Rick are sharing the Field Day chair duties this year and Steve will be our chef. The new location is Hensley Park across from the Alexandria Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Ave. The club will make use of it's four HF radios and will be 4A (15,20,40 and 75M). If you wish to work an alternative mode, you will need to bring out your key or interface gear.

The goals are to maximize the fun and team work. CW and digital count for double points!

The club has a 2KW generator and we have a few others in the club. I'm not sure yet if the pavilion has AC power, but we will have checked this out before the next meeting.

Rick has lots of aluminum if you want to try a new antenna design.

Food will be \$15 per person for 3+ meals (Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday Breakfast, left overs for Sunday lunch.)

The goal is for EVERYONE to get some operating time. If someone else wants to operate, the max time will be one hour.

Jack will have more details at the next meeting. We may print out a station schedule to allow folks to set up to come out when they can to operate. This is dependent on the team leaders.

It's always a fun time. For new hams you don't need to bring anything, just come out and try your hand at operating. We will operate for 24 hours and we have about 4 hours to set up ahead of kick off time.

ARRL 100th Anniversary

Had to believe that the ARRL is celebrating it's 100th year. In the last 30 years the hobby has changed a great deal and the equipment has really changed. In the 1960s SSB was new and most of us were operating with tube type gear and now we have radios that have Digital Signal Processing that are the size of the 1970s 10 watt VHF mobiles.

Some of the members are going to Newington CT. for the party. Hope to hear about that in late July when they return.

Hamfests –

This year's Dayton Hamvention takes place May 16, 17 and 18. Several Alexandria Radio Club members are making the trip. Two of the travelers are making the trip for the first time. That's always a great time for the Dayton rookies.

Memorial Day weekend is the weekend for the Maryland FM Association Hamfest at the Howard County Fairgrounds. This is usually a good hamfest for those hard to find parts.

June 8 is the annual Manassas Hamfest at the Prince William County Fairgrounds sponsored by the Old Virginia Hams. This is a great local hamfest featuring both indoor and outdoor spaces. The club usually gets a tailgate spot or two. Bring your excess (?) equipment.

Training -

Our class wrapped up on May 6 with the exam for new licenses and upgrades. We should be hearing them on the air by mid-May. Be sure to welcome them to ham radio when you hear them.

We are planning the next class starting at the end of September. If you know of someone who wants to become a ham, send them our way. As always, they are welcome to attend our meetings.

Contests -

May 10 & 11 – Nevada Mustang Roundup. Exchange is RST and state.

May 24 & 25 – CW portion of the CQ World Wide DX Contest. Exchange is RST and serial number.

While not a contest, the Armed Forces Day Cross Communications Test takes place on Saturday, May 10. This is a great opportunity to communicate with Military stations around the US. We even have two in our backyard. WAR is the Army station in Washington, DC and AIR is the station at Andrews AFB. The announcement has the schedule of operating time and

frequencies. This is one time of year we as amateur radio operators are authorized to communicate with stations not in the amateur service. The military stations will transmit to us just outside the amateur bands and listen for us inside the amateur bands. See the link: <https://www.sites.google.com/site/armymarsportal/home/announcements>. One other thing, they are great QSLers and have some really cool cards!

73,
Rich, KA4GFY

Alexandria Radio Club Repeaters –

All of the Alexandria Radio Club's repeaters are now on the air. That includes both analog and digital repeaters. We encourage you to try them out. If you don't have equipment for a band, someone may have something you can borrow. Who knows, you just might find your new favorite band.

73,
Rich, KA4GFY

ARES QUESTIONNAIRE (repeated from last issue for those who have not sent it in)

It has been a while since we had an ARES program or a dedicated ARES meeting. Our area is not like other parts of the country, we rarely have a call up and most of them are due to weather. In order to get a better idea of who of you are interested in supporting ARES and what you can bring to the 'party' please fill out and return by e-mail the following questionnaire

- 1 – Call, Name, Phone number(s), License class
- 2 – Are you an ARES volunteer or would you like to have your name added to the list of Alexandria ARES volunteers?
- 3 – Please describe your radio capabilities (If you are a volunteer or plan to volunteer)
- 4 – Do you have APRS equipment?
- 5 – Are you interested in supporting public service events.

Social Events

Monday Night Half Price Burgers – There is a group that gets together at Shooter McGee's (Duke and Paxton Streets) on Monday evenings at 6:15 PM. A good burger and soft drink runs about \$9.00.