

ARC-SHORTS

May 2015

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 8th at our normal location, 3600 Wheeler Ave, just off of Duke Street about half a block west of Quaker Lane. As this is the meeting before Dayton, we will ask our members to give us a run down on Dayton.

APRIL MEETING MINUTES.

Our program was Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, Director of FEMA. Craig has been a member of our club and a great supporter of Amateur Radio at a time when some would say our services were no longer needed. Craig gave us an idea of how important amateur radio is when the central switching system goes down or is backed up due to over usage.

President's Corner –

Thanks to the Training Team led by Rich Adamy, the Alexandria Radio Club (ARC) anticipates graduating a new class of about 20 amateurs. The dedicated ARC instructors (by order of last name) are Rich, KA4GFY; Rick, N4ASX; Ted, W9TCE; Harry, N4CWP; Ian, N8IK; and Don, KI4D. Each trainer dedicated hours of their own time to prepare and present the necessary material. Next time you see one or more of our trainers, please let them know how much they are appreciated.

The exams will be administered on Tuesday, May 5th, so by the time you read this we should have some new ARC members. Training classes are vital to continuing our membership growth in a geographical area where people are constantly departing for other places. And oh, by the way be sure to congratulate all new members!

Hamfests –

Later this month is the Dayton Hamvention. Its always the third full weekend in May, so that means May 15 through 17. Thursday is normally the travel day, but there was interest in touring the US Air Force Museum, so we will travel on Wednesday, May 13 and do the museum on May 14. If you have any interest in aviation, this is well worth the visit.

I may have 1 space our hotel this year. There are several other hotels in the Fairborn area, but they are filling up fast. Hotels in the Dayton area sell out months in advance. Other club members may have a room or two available nearby. Gas may remain cheap for the foreseeable future, so plan on making the trip. The breakdown is usually \$60 to \$80 for gas, plan on \$350 for hotel, \$28 for the Hamvention ticket and bus fare, along with your meals and purchases.

So far, I have on the list W3RST, K4LVT, AF2D, N4CWP, AK4CM and KA4GFY.

Let me know by the club meeting, but you are on your own for tickets.

Training -

Its hard to believe we are finishing up another class. We started out with 23 students and it appears nearly all have completed the course. We even picked up a couple students along the way. The exam results are too close to press time to publish this month, but we should have a report in the next ARC Shorts.

Contests -

May 9 and 10 – Nevada Mustang Roundup. Exchange is RST and your state.

May 30 and 31 – CQ WW WPX Contest CW – RST and serial number.

June 6 and 7 – Alabama QSO Party – Exchange is RST and your State. Note, you can only work a station ONCE per mode.

May 9 and 10 - Armed Force Day Crossband Test. While not a contest, this is an great opportunity to work MARS stations. The MARS stations will be transmitting on their frequencies and announcing where in the ham bands they are listening. Set you radio up for split operation and you're good to go. Some of the stations are operated by active duty military ops and some are operated by volunteers.

This is the one time a year we get to communicate with MARS stations. See the ARRL webpage for the stations and frequencies. The best part is many of the MARS ops are hams themselves and they do QSL. They have really neat QSL cards. Also, the Secretary of Defense issues a message we can copy on digital modes thanking hams for all we do.

Club Repeaters -

The Alexandria Radio Club owns more repeaters than other club in the area. We have repeaters on every ham radio band between 6 meters and 23 cm. Here is a great opportunity to try a new

band. With the exception of the 23 cm repeater, all our repeaters are commercial grade equipment which should run for many years with minimal work. The 23 cm repeater is constructed from 2 Yaesu 23 cm mobile radios with a controller in between. All the repeaters provide good coverage in Alexandria and the surrounding area.

If you are active on 23 cm, you may notice something continually keying up the repeater from time to time. The signal doesn't appear to be that strong, but it is annoying. The solution is to require CTCSS (also known as PL) to open the receiver. When the equipment for our repeater was made, PL transmit was standard, but PL decode for the receiver was an option and our receiver does not have it. We are starting to look at options to make this happen. If you haven't already programmed in the club's standard PL tone (107.2 Hz) to your 23 cm transceiver, now would be a good time to do it.

I am looking at possibly replacing the 23 cm repeater with new equipment, possibly a pair of ICOM ID-1s. We would gain for more flexibility than what we have now with the ability to turn PL on and off as needed and change it if we ever need to. Not to mention new equipment instead of 25+ year old equipment. 23 repeater equipment is just not made anymore, except for DSTAR. For those of you on DSTAR, the DSTAR repeaters are basically a pair of DSTAR mobiles configured as a repeater in a box.

We also now have a 6 meter net on the club's 53.13 repeater starting at 7:30 PM on Thursday nights, right before the weekly 2 meter net. If you 6 meter FM equipment, be sure to join the group.

73,
Rich, KA4GFY

FIELD DAY

Field Day is one part emergency test, one part contest and one part fun club activity.

Steve W8RJH is again our chief cook, your welcome to bring a side dish to Saturday dinner. If you plan to join us for dinner or other meals, let Jack or Rick know so we have a count for the food. There is a donation for the food and your family and friends are also welcome.

HF TIPS

Last month I talked about buying gear with the right attributes. I recently installed my Ten-Tec Eagle in my Father-in-law's QTH. He has the advantage of a tower and tri-band (10/15/20 meter) beam but the radio puts out a little less than 100 watts. While I was checking out the

station I worked a great deal of DX including long path to New Zealand and broke a pile up for a station in Lebanon. His question was: "With all the loud (read kilowatt) stations, how did I make the contacts?" The answer is a bit of technique. I listen and try to match my cadence to the DX stations. I lean if he gets the first station to call or the last (tailgater). I wait for the BIG GUNS and CALIFORNIA KILOWATTS to work him first and get them out of the way. The next thing I do is have the radio set so that I'm not overdriving the modulation, set the ALC so that you just into the ALC on the meter or a little ALC light just blinks. More mic gain muddies the audio and if English is not the DX station's native language they will not understand you or your call sign. Another tip, Don't get excited and start to shout or talk quickly.

They do not call it the PILEUP for nothing. Keep trying, try to call when he is listening and have a clean signal.

73 Rick
N4ASX

Future Programs

May (tent.) Terry Hines on the ARRL antenna modeling course we will also start Field Day planning

June – Field Day

July – Show and Tell – GO KITS! Field Day lessons learned

August – Members share their insights on LOGGING and RADIO CONTROL programs.

September – Digital

October – Mobile HF

November – Club Elections

DECEMBER - Holiday party and club awards

We hope to have an update on use of some of the newest solar technology, use of the new microcomputers and I am trying to find someone to talk about converting our old XP laptops to use a version of Lenex.

If you have an idea for a program, please let Rick know and he will try to find someone to provide the program.

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 \$11.00.

A few years ago, a bunch of us went to the Air and Space Museum at Dullas, is there an interest in another trip (Yes, I know it's not radio). We can also plan for a trip the antique radio and EW museums.