

# **ARC-SHORTS**

September 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 September 11th at our normal location, 3600 Wheeler Ave, just off of Duke Street about half a block west of Quaker Lane. The program is COMPUTER LOGGING PROGRAMS

Rich, KA4GFY and Ian, N8IK will demonstrate two of the most popular Computer Logging Programs and we invite anyone else who uses a different logging program to join in and share your impressions on computer logging programs

## **AUGUST MEETING MINUTES.**

Our August meeting program was all about GO BOXES. Rick N4ASX had his basic Go Box for the Marine Corps Marathon, Ian had his Go box with integrated radio, power and antenna connections. Don, KI4D had his go box which is designed to be flexible depending on the mission. The best advice was to have a check list for your equipment and to include things like chairs, office stuff, lights, and anything else you might think you will need. Some pointed out that you can make up a spreadsheet and check off what you need.

## **President's Corner –**

Just noticed on QRZ.com an announcement that Charles Hellman W2RP, who is 105 years of age, was presented a 90 year Licensed Certificate (Award Serial #1). He is the oldest living amateur in the U.S. and possibly, the world. He was licensed as a 15 year old. Congratulations to Charles.

What a wonderful hobby we have that encompasses people from their sub-teens all the way to those over the century mark! And all find something to enjoy.

We have a cross section of members in the Alexandria Radio Club that covers a wide range of ages. It is a delight to hear the spectrum of interests each has on our weekly nets and in the monthly club meetings. Perhaps our next graduates from the training class will add an even larger range to the mix.

During a visit to Ham Radio Outlet in Woodbridge this week, I mentioned that we had gone from 18 members in January 2015 to a current total of 65. Steve and Joe (from HRO) were astounded and very happy to hear that news. Many of you share the credit for this growth – those who organize and teach classes, those who find prospective students, those who keep our monthly programs and activities interesting to all ages, and those who worked long and hard to remind amateurs to join our club. Thanks to each of you and keep up the good work.

73 Larry

KK4CBL

### **For the Newbies and those who have forgotten**

Most of the old timers (those over 40) will tell you that REAL ham radio is on the HF bands and compared to the local 2 meter repeater, HF is a brave new world. When you're up on HF you have no channels per se, but you do need to be more mindful of the separation of signals. DSP radios can copy a station with a strong adjacent signal only 2 KHz away, but before you go for that station, consider that the other stations may not have radios that can block your signal out 2 KHz away. Try to go 3 KHz up or down so that you don't interfere. They may not hear the DX or the station your trying to work.

The HF bands cover a great range of propagation . For communications in the state you can try 75 / 80 meters, 40 meters can cover half the country and in the evenings you may find yourself working great distances. These two lower band so however require larger antennas. There is no way around the idea that larger antennas work more efficiently. Many of us live where a full size dipole would get the wrong kind of attention from our HOA board or other folks. Some of our members have used mobile antennas and had some success. Usually this includes careful attention to a ground counterpoise, which acts as the other half of the antenna.

Most of the DX (international) work is done on 10/15 and 20 Meters. These antennas can be full size and hidden or shortened a little with loading coils and be quite effective. A 20 meter dipole is 17.25 feet on a side. Or 34.5 feet end to end. If you're running under 100 watts you can use very fine steel wire or fairly thin copper wire.

With dipoles you should have your antenna up at a ¼ wavelength off of ground, again the higher bands require less height to radiate horizontally.

So, Jump into HF, lots of great older HF radios are out there for less than \$400 that will give you a great receiver, 100 watts of output and a digital readout. SO, If 2 meters gets a bit old, try HF. The club has old hands who can help you get it figured out.

73 Rick

N4ASX

### **Hamfests –**

If you don't mind an excuse to get to the beach, check out the Virginia Beach Hamfest on September 12. Its located at the Virginia Beach Convention Center at 1000 19th Street. You can get to it by taking I-264 toward VA Beach. As you get closer to the oceanfront, you will see it on the right. The hamfest is the VA Section Convention.

Don't forget the Columbia ARA CARAfest at the Howard County Fairgrounds on October 4. It's a short drive from our area.

### **Training -**

We are on track to start our next class on October 6 and ending December 8. If you know someone who wants to get into amateur radio, send them our way.

### **Contests -**

September 12 to September 14 – ARRL September VHF Contest. Exchange is your grid square. Most of us are in FM18. New this year, a VHF FM category. Just be sure to stay away from the calling frequencies of 52.525, 146.520, 222.500 and 446.000.

September 12 and 13 – Arkansas QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

September 13 – North American CW Sprint. The exchange is the other station's call, your call, a serial number, your name and your state. It's not as bad as it sounds, once you get into the swing of things, it goes quickly. Since this is a sprint, it only runs from 000Z to 0400Z.

September 19 and 20 – South Carolina QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

September 19 and 20 – New Jersey QSO Party. Exchange is RST and State.

September 19 and 20 -Washington State Salmon Run. Exchange is RST and State.

September 26 and 27 – Maine QSO Party. Exchange is RST and State.

September 26 and 27 – Texas QSO Party. Exchange is RST and State.

October 3 and 4 – California QSO Party. Exchange is a serial number and state.

### **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.

Ham it up and get on the air.

73,

Rich, KA4GFY

### **Future Programs**

September – Computer Logging and radio control Programs – Rich KA4GFY, and Ian N9IK.

October – Digital / Mobile HF

November – Club Elections

DECEMBER - Holiday party and club awards

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.