

# **ARC-SHORTS**

November 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 November 13th at our normal location, 3600 Wheeler Ave, just off of Duke Street about half a block west of Quaker Lane. This is our last real meeting of the year as our December meeting is the PARTY at FIONAs in the Kingstown shopping center. More on that later! We will hold our club elections and the remainder of the meeting we need to talk about next year's programs,

## **OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES.**

Ian, N8IK, has come through again! He provided an excellent program that combined the WRTC contest video with a great introduction to contesting. This was a nice follow up to the clubs program in September on logging programs. We will have new Field Day chairs and should talk about next year's club activities.

## **DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Ian, N8IK, has again made arrangements for our Christmas meeting to be held at FIONA'S 5810 Kingstowne Ctr, Alexandria, VA 22315. From Alexandria, take Van Dorn Street south past Franconia Rd and turn left after you past the shopping center. You can catch up with Ian at the meeting or pay at the door. Ian will need a count, so let him know if you plan to attend. Bring your family. We will introduce our new officers for next year and may have a few end of year awards. We will also close the message practice contest.

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Presidents Corner - Looking over the browser history file on my PC, it was a surprise to see the number of sites that provide free reference material to amateurs. Of course one has to mention our excellent website W4HFH and those of the many clubs that also maintain websites. Thanks, Roy K4AXQ, for the voluntary hard work you put in to keep our Alexandria Radio Club's site current and relevant.

Other available websites include not just ARRL, QTH, QRZ, eHam, eQSL, hamtronics, hamuniverse, Buxcomm, and many other commercial sites, but also those maintained by individuals. Hams who own and maintain their own personal websites, such as AC6V and (the ksarrrl site which lists 500 ham radio links) offer access to all kinds of amateur radio subjects. These individual sites cost their owners to setup, keep current and relevant. We are fortunate to

have them. Ever thought of creating a site of your own? If so let us know what it is so we can share your achievement.

When starting a new project, it is very useful to peruse one or more of these sites in order to review best practices and lessons learned before plugging in the soldering iron and creating mayhem (or excess smoke). Enjoy the hobby!

Larry

KK4CBL

### **CLUB ELECTIONS**

Our club has rules that are meant to ensure that we have new officers every year or two. Other club's elect the same folks for many years. Some of these clubs have a hard time keeping it interesting. It great when someone wants to stay on and serve for many years, but we REALLY want new blood in the driver seats.

The nominating committee has a slate of officers, but we still want any who want to run for an office to do so.

73 Rick

N4ASX

### **Odds and Ends**

Andy WV8AA has a gin pole for sale. I would like to recommend that the club purchase it for use by our members.

The Weekly Nets

The club has over 50 members but our weekly VHF nets have about 10 to 15 check ins on a good evening. For those who are new. We meet on the 147.315 Mhz +600Khz Offset and a PL tone of 107.2 at 8 PM LOCAL time. We have been sending practice ARRL messages and we go around the list for comments twice. Once in a while we get a radio trivia question or topic for discussion. Many evenings we will move to another club repeater (see the banner at the beginning).

There is also a SIX METER net that meets on 53.13Mhz -1MHz offset and 107.2 tone. K5OTZ is our net control and, due to the 30 minute limit before the 2 meter net we go around once for comments.

ARES

The City's EMS manager retired a few months ago and the city has hired a new manager. Rick, N4ASX is going to arrange a meeting with the new manager to make sure EMS is aware of our capabilities.

Washington's Birthday Parade will be Monday February 15, 2016, If you have the day off, we can use about 10 volunteers. We generally use the club trailer at the beginning of the parade as our point to collect data on parade organization and send changes by D-Star or Packet to the reviewing stand. A team at the reviewing stand acts as Net Control and provides updates to the reviewing stand. In the past, after the parade we all go somewhere for a late lunch. Let Rick, N4ASX know if you can participate. If we can we will use a few APRS capable handhelds to track the lead and end of the parade. Part of what we do is help with traffic and safety. This is general a handheld activity and we usually use the 146.655 repeater, but we may try simplex this year.

The radio installation at the Hospital is on hold until we can figure out how to get our signals to the antennas from the EOC (250 feet away).

### **The Trailer**

We are looking to trade one of our club radios for an IC-7000 or other small HF radio. We have a Tarheel II antenna, ball mount and cable but we are still working on how to mount it such that it will not be damaged when the trailer is on the road. As always, we have some improvements to do.

The trailer is available for other activities if club members would like to use it.

### **Hamfests –**

Hamfest season in our area has drawn to a close. But, I am already receiving emails about the Richmond Frostfest. It's on February 6, the first Saturday in February. Coming in January is the Maryland Mobileers Hamfest in January. For this year only, they are holding it in a different location.

### **Training -**

Hard to believe, but as I wright this, we are halfway through our current class. So far, most everybody has staying with it, which is always a good sign. The exam is December 8. If you are a Technician or General looking to upgrade, let me know.

The biggest draw for new hams seems to be the public service angle, but don't forget that is just one aspect of our great hobby. There are plenty of things to try. If somebody says they are bored with ham radio, they are not looking hard enough!.

## **Contests -**

November 14 and 15 – Kentucky QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

November 21 and 22 – ARRL SSB Sweepstakes. Exchange is the other station's call, a serial number, class, your call, check, and section. The class is your power level, below 5 watts is Q for QRP and below 150 watts is A. The check is the year you were first licensed. For example, if I am working N8IK, the exchange would be N8IK, #100A, KA4GFY 79 VA.

You can only work a station ONCE, regardless of the band. By Sunday afternoon, the big guns are begging to work the little pistols.

November 28 and 29 – CQ WW DX Contest, CW. Exchange is RST and CQ Zone. We are in Zone 5.

December 4 to 6 – ARRL 160 meter contest. Exchange is RST and ARRL/RAC section.

December 12 and 13 – ARRL 10 meter contest. Exchange is RST and state.

Technicians can work this one with the Generals and Extras. They have CW and Phone privileges on 10 meters.

## **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.

We also have a complete DSTAR system, with digital voice on 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm. We also have the data repeater on 23 cm. Think WiFi on steroids. The 2 meter repeater is linked with other repeaters in the capital area. The 70 cm repeater is linked world-wide, so you never know who will be on.

Ham it up and get on the air.

73,  
Rich, KA4GFY

## **Future Programs**

DECEMBER - Holiday party and club awards

2016

January – Installation of NEW Officers – Post holiday social meeting

February – GW Birthday prep,

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

Let me know what you want to hear about. HELP !!!! 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.