

ARC-SHORTS

JANUARY 2016
CHRISTMAS EDITION

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 JANUARY 8, 2016! Don, KI4D, has arrange for a program via Skype on design and building of VHF J-Pole antennas. This will be a first for us and we thank Don and Dr. Ed Fong for the program.

This will also be the first meeting for our new officers

Erik KI4BXU - President
Monica KC2IAY - Vice President
Ted W9TCE - Treasurer
Jay KV3W – Secretary

Jay and Ted are returning and we should all appreciate their willingness to support the club. Erik has been our VP and we look forward to his leadership. Monica is a very active member and I'm sure she will bring new ideas to the club.

A special thanks to our 2015 officers. Larry, KK4CBL, did a great job in leading the club this last year. We have a record number of members, we've had great programs and Larry was the guy who kept things moving. Larry has set a high bar, but I'm sure that Erik is more than up to the challenge.

January is also our meeting to discuss various committees and committee chairs to include: Membership, outreach, classes, ways and means, hamfest etc.

I would also like to thank, Rich, KA4GFY for all he has done for the club this past year. He has organized two tech classes and the two VE sessions that followed them were world class! Note below the new call signs and new Technician class hams that have now been able to enter the hobby. I hope we see them at the meeting. Rich also writes the sections of this newsletter on the repeaters, contests, hamfests as well as training.

Our ham of the year for the second year in a row was Ian, N8IK. Ian, last year provided three very interesting programs, taught classes and has been an outstanding elmer to many of our new members.

PLEASE ATTEND the January meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES.

December was our annual Christmas dinner. A great time was had by all and Jack organized a gift swap and it was a great deal of fun! We also recognized some of our more outstanding members for their support to the club over the last year. For those who did not attend, plan on next year!

73 Rick / N4ASX

ARES

We had a great year in 2015 – NO EMERGENCIES!!!! This should not lead us to be complacent. ARES is our way of letting the community at large know of the value of amateur radio. When we grip about HOA restrictions, we have no standing if we cannot show that our antennas are of value to those who run these HOAs. I thank all of you who volunteer for ARES and train for an event we hope never happens.

Public Service is the way we train in large part. Our next event is the WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY parade. This happens on February 15th. The parade is 1PM to 3PM. We need to be on site no later than 11AM to help set up the order of march and collect any changes and then send them from the beginning of the race to the reviewing stand. We do this by having members with handhelds work with the parade marshals and collect the changes due to units added, dropped or moved from one place in the parade to another. These are changed on the list and sent to the reviewing stand via D-Star data. We also would like to have one of our members with an APRS handheld go with the beginning and end of the parade so we can advise the reviewing stand of parade progress.

Another good training effort is working contests like the upcoming VA QSO party. Working an HF and VHF contest can show you how your station works and the operating at a rapid pace helps you polish your operating skills.

At the Richmond Frostfest, there will be a forum on Go-Kits. If you carpool with the club that might be something to attend.

73 Rick

N4ASX

Hamfests –

Coming later this month is the Maryland Mobileers Post Holiday Hamfest on January 30. For this year only, they are holding it at the Odenton Baptist Church. Talk-in is on 146.805 (PL 107.2)

The following weekend is the Richmond Frostfest on February 6 at the Richmond Raceway Complex. Many of us remember it as the VA State Fairgrounds. It's an easy drive down I-95 and getting to the raceway is well marked. Talk-in is on 146.88 (PL 74.4 Hz).

For those of us who go to Frostfest, be thinking about what frequency we can use for talk-around at the Frostfest. There is a new System Fusion repeater on the air in Richmond on 147.315. So that leaves out the output frequency of our 2 meter repeater. So far, a couple of suggestions have been 444.600 simplex (our 70 cm repeater's output frequency) or 146.415 simplex. After a little digging around on one of Richmond area club's, I found out that 146.415 is one of the simplex frequencies used by the locals. We usually monitor a DSTAR frequency and last year we tried 900 MHz as well. I think we worked out some of the bugs on 900, so we may try again.

The Alexandria Radio Club usually has a fairly large turnout for this hamfest. By popular demand, breakfast is at the Cracker Barrel at the South end of Fredericksburg around 7 AM and caravan to the Richmond Raceway Complex/hamfest.

Training -

Our latest class concluded December 8 with 17 new hams. If you hear any of them on the air, be sure to say hello and welcome them to ham radio.

Austin Ruzie	KM4PRO
Michael Cerino	KM4PRP
Frederick Nutt	KM4PRQ
Gary Roseman	KM4PRR
Michael Osbourne	KM4PRS
Adam Hardy	KM4PRT
Reginald Moreland	KM4PRU
John Mullany	KM4PRV
Dennis Chung	KM4PRW
Phong Nguyen	KM4PRX
Janet Hendricks	KM4PRY
Anthony Hendricks	KM4PRZ
Eric Joinson	KM4PSA
Jared Neiferd	KM4PSB
John Didiuk	KC3GEA
Susan Dombrowski	KC3GEC
Jeffery Robison	KC3GED

Our next class starts March 8 and runs until May 10, 2016.

The biggest draw for many 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 -

January 9 and 10 – North American QSO Party, CW. Exchange is name and state.

January 16 and 17 - North American QSO Party, SSB. Exchange is name and state.

January 23 – Montana QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

January 20 and February 1 – ARRL January VHF Contest. Exchange is grid square. Most of us are in FM18.

February 6 and 7 – Vermont QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

February 6 – Minnesota QSO Party. Exchange is name and state.

February 7 – North American Sprint, CW. Exchange is the other station's call, your call, serial number and your name.

February 13 – New Hampshire QSO Party. Exchange is RST 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 analog repeaters are commercial grade equipment which should run for many years with minimal work.

We are one of the few radio clubs in the area with a 6 meter repeater. It's a converted Motorola MICOR station running 100 watts to a WACOM (now TxRx) duplexer. Like many 6 meter repeaters, we used to use 2 sites for our repeater, one for receive and one for transmit. Duplexers for 6 meters are very expensive and can be quite large. We hit the jackpot a few years ago when a club in the Raleigh – Durham area was selling their 6 meter duplexer because they needed one with more selectivity. Switching to a single site reduces the complexity of the system. After months of work by KT4MV, K4GOR and KF7IJZ, the W4HFH 6 meter repeater was back on the air after a long hiatus.

If you have never been on 6 meters, it's known as the "magic band." It has characteristics of the HF bands as well as the VHF bands. During band openings, it's not unusual to hear 53.13 MHz repeaters from Florida or Missouri on FM. Band openings on CW or SSB are even more impressive. When the band is not open, local communication is just like what we have on 2 meters.

Chances are if you bought an HF transceiver in the past several years, it has 6 meters on it. Why not try it out. There are also a few stand-alone FM units for 6 meters on the market.

As always, ham it up and get on the air.

73,
Rich, KA4GFY

Future Programs

**January – Dr Ed Fong via SKYPE on design and building of J-pole antennas
Installation of NEW Officers – Post holiday social meeting**

February – GW Birthday prep, VA QSO PARTY

March – Update on MESHNet

April – Gary Sessums – Katrina Response

May – Field Day planning part I and D-Star for beginners

June - D-Star Ops and programming

July – VHF Contesting (tent.)

August – DX Contesting (tent.)

September - HF Portable Operations (tent.)

October – ARES ops and City interface

November - Club Elections

December – Club Party

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.

Hamfests –

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This may give us an opportunity to hear what System Fusion sounds like.

Training -

By the time this gets to you, our latest class will have ended. I'll have the results in next month's ARC Shorts.

Our next class starts March 8 and runs until May 10, 2016.

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 -

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.

December 20 – ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW. Rookies are defined as licensed in the current calendar year or previous 2 calendar years. Exchange is name and 2 digit year first licensed.

January 2 and 3 – ARRL RTTY Roundup. Exchange is RST and state.

January 9 and 10 – North American QSO Party, CW. Exchange is name and state.

January 16 and 17 - North American QSO Party, SSB. Exchange is name 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 analog 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 have a 1.25 meter (220 MHz) repeater with very good coverage. It's a converted Motorola MICOR VHF high band repeater. The 1.25 meter band is a ham band only in North America so the market for the equipment is somewhat limited. However, there are a couple of manufacturers making 1.25 meter equipment. Not only that, an American based company is making repeaters for this band.

If you have never been on 1.25, the first thing you notice is how quiet it is. There is a marine band used by the Intra Coastal Waterway below it and military aircraft above it. We don't hear much noise from either of those services. It's very different from 2 meters or 70 cm with the high noise floors on those bands.

The 1.25 meter ham band is one of the best kept secrets in ham radio.

Ham it up and get on the air.

73,
Rich, KA4GFY

Social Events

Monday Night Burgers – There is a group that gets together at 6:15 PM on Mondays at a local burger joint. Mark up on the 147.315 repeater and join them for the fun.