

# **ARC-SHORTS**

MAY 2016

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 13. This meeting will be our FIELD DAY planning meeting. Ian, N8IK is our Field Day chairman and will review the plans.

We will run 5A (report is 5A VA). We will have 5 HF stations each run by a band captain. The job of the band captain is NOT to operate the radio for 24 hours, but to manage the station. Help our members operate the station and the logging program.

We encourage all of our members, no matter what your license class, to come out and to operate for a few hours. If you see a station in operation and what to operate, the best way to do it is to approach the member operating and offer to log and to be next to operate. As a courtesy, we need to share the radios and operating time, so a hand off every hour or so would give all of our members a chance to operate during Field Day.

If time permits, Rich, KA4GFY will give us a short program on D-Star operations.

I'm looking for good programs. If you have a lead, please let me know and I will see what I can do.

## **CLUB NETS**

For as long as anyone can remember we have held our weekly club net on th 147.315 Repeater and this will continue. The turn out has been but a small percentage of the club's membership. The net provides a way for members to get to know their fellow members, share what they have been doing in amateur radio, get news on club events and practice net operations and procedures.

The net meets on the 147.315 (PL 107.2, +600KHz offset) at 8PM EVERY Thursday unless there is a major holiday. The net control station is voluntary and ANY member can call the net. Net Control Stations are set at the club meetings. The NCS will ask for traffic, short time stations and handheld or portable stations first. Traffic can be anything you want to send to anyone. If you would like to send an ARRL message to someone we can find a station to take it to a traffic net, any announcements can be traffic or you can wait until we go for TWO rounds of comments. The net usually ends by 9PM.

For the last several months we have been trying to exercise other bands by holding an HF or 6 meter net after the 2 meter net, but without a great deal of participation.

We will try another new idea. As many of us have D-Star radios and those who sign out for loan of a City ID-51Aplus, we will hold a D-Star NET after the club 2 meter net on our 444.060 D-Star repeater. Make sure you have your D-Star radio set up with your call sign. If you are checking in on 444.060 (-600Khz offset, DV mode) enter our repeater setting as W4HFH\_\_B, if you cannot connect on 444.06, you can join in by going to the 145.38Mhz 2 meter D-Star repeater and connect using W4HFH\_\_B. The B links to the 444.060 repeater. We will try to TURN OFF the REFLECTOR 25B link so we don't get interference from the regulars on that reflector.

### **President's Corner**

Hello, fellow hams. This will be a short blurb this month, as I have to get this out early. With the start of May comes May flowers and discussion for Field Day, which happens in less than two months' time. For the new hams, Field Day is a mix of emergency simulation exercise, contest event, and get-together. It's always held on the 4th full weekend in June. Join us on Friday the 13th at the Alexandria Police Station for more details about this fun-filled event.

73 DE KI4BXU (Erik Misavage)

### **APRIL MEETING MINUTES.**

Gary KC5QCN gave us a great program on amateur radio operations after Hurricane Katrina. The main lesson learned was the seamless operation of ARES volunteers with FEMA and Florida EMS offices in support of relief efforts in the devastated areas after the hurricane. Another lesson was the need for trained operators who are willing to support not only with amateur radio but to apply their communications expertise when operating in support of other services.

We all hope that we NEVER have an event like this in our area, but we should all be prepared. Thanks again to Gary.

### **ARES**

Regan Airport Drill – APRIL 30<sup>th</sup> -- I was not able to participate due to a prior commitment, but thanks to Ian, N8IK, all went well. Even with a last minute additional request. Ian, Ian KM4KLLK, Steve, W8RJH, Larry KK4CBL manned the Alexandria Hospital and Harry N4CWP and Mark KM4GML went to support Mt. Vernon Hospital. All went well.

The Alexandria hospital team had asked us NOT to set up in their EOC due to the large number of people supporting and grading the drill. Harry and Mark went to Mt. Vernon and despite being a good distance from the repeaters were able to use a J-pole antenna to get into the Arlington repeater.

Great work! \

73 Rick, N4ASX

D-Star Net

For the last two week, we have held a D-Star net after our regular Thursday evening net (8PM local on 147.315). The first net was on the 145.38 DV repeater but we had some interference with the reflector programmed into that repeater. For the second net last week we used the 444.060 DV repeater and it went well, except that N4ASX (NSC) microphone PTT failed and had to go use a handheld. In talking with Rich, KA4GFY, we hope to reprogram the 145.38 repeater to a local reflector to tie in all the local (Northern VA) D-Star repeaters so that those living south and west can link in to our net. If you have a D-Star radio, please check in. The ONLY way to learn about this mode is to operate.

As for our weekly nets, we have 50 members and the average check in count is about 10. Please join us and share your ham radio stories with the net.

### **Hamfests –**

The Culpeper Amateur Radio Association's Swapfest will be held April 9 at Agricultural Enterprise, which is on Route 29 in Culpeper. Features outdoor tailgating and some inside tables.

The Delmarva Amateur radio and Electronics Expo takes place April 16 at the Sussex Technical High School in Georgetown, Delaware. It's sponsored by the Sussex Amateur Radio Association. The school is located at 17099 County Seat Highway (Route 9). It's an easy drive across the Bay Bridge. Take 301 North after crossing the bridge and look for US Route 13. At laurel, DE, take Route 9 East. The school is about halfway between Laurel and Georgetown. Talk in on 147.09 (PL 156.7 Hz) repeater.

The Greater Hagerstown Hamfest takes place on May 5 at the Washington County Agriculture Center. Its on MD route 65 South, Sharpsburg Pike. Talk in is 147.09(+), PL 100 Hz. Its fairly east to get to and they do have both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Its not too early to start thinking about the Dayton Hamvention. Its always the third full weekend in May, so that means May 20 through 22. Thursday is the travel day, so we have a full day at the Hamvention before the really big crowd arrives on Saturday.

I have 4 rooms at the Fairfield Inn Fairborn and 1 is already spoken for. There are several other hotels in the immediate area, but they are sold out and your only alternative is to stay in the hinterlands. 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.

I will need to know by the April club meeting so I can order tickets.

### **Training -**

We have 22 students signed up for our class, including General and Extra Class. It's hard to believe, but we are now at the hallway point in our latest class. We look forward to hearing them on the air next month and at club meetings and activities.

### **Contests -**

May 7 and 8 – 7<sup>th</sup> call area QSO Party – Exchange is RST and state.

May 7 and 8 – Indiana QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

May 7 and 8 - Delaware QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

May 7 and 8 – New England QSO Party - Exchange is RST and state.

May 14 and 15 – Arkansas 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.

In the late 1980's the FCC opened up spectrum at 902 to 928 MHz to US amateurs. Like most of our spectrum above 225 MHz, it's shared spectrum. In fact, we share it with a multitude of other services, such as military radar, cordless phones, baby monitors, over the road truck locating services as well as medical and industrial users to name a few.

. Most of the other users are concentrated in the middle part of the band, leaving the edges relatively interference free. The original bandplan called for 12 MHz repeater splits and the FM portion was right in the middle of the mess.

As commercial equipment designed for the spectrum above 928 MHz has become available on the open market, hams have been converting these radios to our purposes. The only way to get on 33 cm is to convert commercial equipment. (Alinco made a handheld radio with 1.25 meters

### **Future Programs**

**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.

### **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. At this time the group meets at SMASH BURGER At Van Dorn and Pickett St. Parking around the back of the building off Pickett.