

ARC-SHORTS

JULY 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 JULY 8th. We do not have a program other than to review Field Day. My guess is that many of our members will be on vacation, but look forward to seeing you all. One of the items that comes up from time to time is what members are working on or experimenting with. I think this would be a good meeting to have our members tell us about their projects. Lots of interest in the small computers and projects. Others are building QRP rigs and still others are working on antennas. Please bring something to sparce conversation and share what you've learned.

President's Corner

Hello, all! If you participated in Field Day, I hope you had some fun. One thing about ham radio is that there are plenty of things available to do if you don't have the means or ability to operate continuously. For example, I help in sorting and sending out DX cards for the Sterling Park club. There are volunteer examiners helping out grading ham exams for new hams and those wanting to upgrade their privileges. There are the hamfest organizers, too. I'm just getting started in mentioning non-operating activities that hams do.

73 DE KI4BXU

JUNE MEETING MINUTES.

This was our last meeting before Field Day and we used it to make sure we were set to go. More on Field Day in another article.

We've purchased an ICOM MKIIG with all of the options installed from N8IK and we will install it in the trailer along with a mobile HF antenna. For those that did not see the trailer it is now very well equipped for any eventuality. We may need to replace our two 80Ahr batteries as they were down to 8 Volts on Field Day.

ARES – FIELD DAY

Ian, our Field Day lead has run off to Florida to visit family, so I will humbly try to provide some insights into our Field Day effort.

First, the turn out from the club was good with more members operating than we've had for a while. Thanks to all who came out and helped out with set up and operating.

Band conditions were not very good and it wasn't just us, other clubs were having the same problem. When the sun fails to produce we lose the high HF bands. In the past would would talk about sacrificing a Novice class member to the sun god for good conditions but without any Novices we had no one to sacrifice! All in all we still did a fine job.

Rich, KA4GFY worked out of the trailer on 75/80 meters on his dipole and made over 100 contacts. This is a very challenging band as you must avoid the nets and the regulars who demand a frequency "just in case a friend drops in". This station was also great for our new hams to get started on HF. More on the trailer later.

Rick, N4ASX set up the 40 meter station using Ian's 34' vertical and that station went over 100 contact despite the new operators who don't understand that a sideband channels takes up 2-3 KHz. The Ten-Tec Eagle did well. Maybe a dipole next year will help. Ian, N8IK put his IC-706MKIIG to work on 40 meter CW on Sunday and added to our score (CW counts for 2 points per contact. I'm still hearing the CW...

Harry, N4CWP set up his 756 Pro II on 20 meters, what a nice radio! Not sure how many contacts, but on his water pipe vertical I think it did well.

Jay, NW3V was up on the club's IC-746 on 15 meters and worked hard but the band conditions were not good. Jay set up a dipole as a sloper.

Tom and Erik worked on 10 meters and again the that band was so bad that you had to wonder if the antenna was connected. Not for lack of a very valiant effort.

This was the year when he had lots of younger hams who learned a great deal about Field Day and HF operations. Nathaniel, KM4UAD made at least 30 contacts on 75 meters and his sister Abigail Youhas, KM4UAC made a few as well. Nathaniel has already upgraded to General class under the tutelage of his mom, Isha, KW4UK who became an EXTRA class at our last testing session. Her OM is a Tech, but I'm betting that he will be an Extra before long. Casey KM4GMQ and Zea KM4GMP were also on the air. Their dad Mark KM4GML was also working hard. Great to see younger hams participating.

Steve, W8RJH was our food chair again this year and truly outdid himself. I hope he found some time to operate. Steve, keep the food and coffee going for ALL of Field Day and this made Field Day a very fine affair indeed.

Ted, W9TCE was not only working hard on the radios, but had a steady supply of his famous lemon aid. Without that Field Day would not be as great as it was.

We had two generators that ran well and powered all 5 of our stations, Don, KI4D had his generator but it developed a fuel leak and we were not able to use it, but we did make good use of the fuel he had. Part of Field Day is to see what works and what fails.

Our outstanding guest was Chief Corey Smedley who is our Alexandria Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Chief. Not sure if we put him on the air, but I think he got a better understanding of our capabilities. Look forward to seeing him at one of meetings in the near future. Chief thank you for your help on getting the park and taking your time to come out.

The weather was outstanding. Last year we had to deal with 3" of rain, in previous years we dealt with heat over 100 degrees, this year the weather could not have been better.

I know I've missed a lot of folks who contributed greatly to our Field Day, thank you all for participating, without a good turn out Field Day would not be as great an experience as it was.

73 Rick

N4ASX

Hamfests –

The next hamfest in the area is the Shenandoah Valley ARC's Berryville Hamfest on August 7. The location is the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds. It's a n easy drive out Route 7. You will see the fairgrounds on the left as you get closer. Make the left at the light (Business Route 7) and look for the hamfest on your left. Talk in on the W4RKC 146.820 repeater (146.2 Hz PL).

Training -

Our next class is scheduled to start in late September. We are looking at around September 27 and ending December 6, 2016. If you know of somebody who has wanted to be ham, let them know about our class. The cost is still \$50, which includes the book, test fee and class materials.

Contests -

July 9 and 10 – IARU HF World Championship. CW and SSB. Exchange is RST and zone. We are in ITU zone 8.

July 16 and 17 – CQ Worldwide VHF Contest. CW and SSB, 6 and 2 meters. Exchange is 4 character grid square. Most of us are in FM18.

July 16 and 17 – North American QSO Party, RTTY. Exchange is name and state.

July 30 and 31 – RSGB Islands on the Air, CW and SSB. Exchange is RST and serial number.

Aug 6 and 7 – ARRL UHF Contest. All Modes, 222 MHz and above. Exchange is 4 character grid square. Most of us are in FM18.

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

73,

Rich, KA4GFY

Sad News

It is with deep regret that I report the passing of two outstanding members of the amateur community in our area.

Dr. Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, long time Vice President, and founding member of the Arlington Amateur Radio Club has become a Silent Key. Dennis was a world class authority on antennas, and HF ALE, He worked for the Defense Communications Agency. Dennis was also very active in ARRL and had been an speaker at our club meetings for many years.

Dick Harman, WA4USB, also passed last week. Dick was a major force in the Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club, he was the repeater trustee for 146.655, very active with ARES and with MVARC. Dick would make the 6.655 repeater available to us when there were public service events in Alexandria and set it up in net mode when needed.

Both of these gentleman optimized what an amateur operator should strive to be. Their contributions are lasting and we will miss both of them.

73 Rick

ARES

I'm working with Chief Smedley on getting the city's radios installed. The hospital is working on a way to install their gear. The trailer will get some upgrades before the weather gets too oppressive which include the installation of a newly acquired IC-706MKIIG, Tarheel II antennas and some clean up of the current installation. The solar cells seem to have failed, so we will see what we can do to check that out and make sure the battery system is working. Some basic maintenance is also in order to make sure that the rain stays out of the trailer. The goal is to have it always ready when needed.

For those who have volunteered as ARES members, Please send my your IS100,200,700 and 800 certificates if you have completed the courses and not already done so. ONLY IS 100 is mandatory, based on FEMA requirements. I will pick up the city's background check forms for

all members prior to the next meeting and we can get those up to date. The background check is required by FEMA for those who would work in EOC, or at shelters.

I have the pics taken by Wilson KM4KLLK and Harry, N4CWP and will continue to make up ID badges for ARES members. If you live in the City of Alexandria, I would ask that you take the next CERT class. You can then provide liaison communications for CERT efforts via ARES when needed.

Marine Corps Marathon is in October, but the volunteer website is up. It's an ALL DAY event, MCM needs over 130 volunteers. If you can, sign up. If you work on the Virginia side of the course you will need to be checked in before 4AM. For those on the DC side, you may be able to check in as late as 6AM. When the race passes your post you will be able to leave. Assignments are based on your equipment, experience and your request. When you fill out the volunteer form you can request your assignment.

73 Rick

Future Programs

July – Club member projects
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. Mark up on the repeater about 6PM and join the group. The location does change! IF you have a good spot, you might make a suggestion.