

ARC-SHORTS

JULY 2018 POST FIELD DAY ISSUE

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 ARE UP AND RUNNING – HAM IT UP! Get on the air!**

SPECIAL NOTE: DMR IS UP AND RUNNING 442.4125 +5Mhz Color Code 1.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Our meeting is held on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Alexandria Police Dispatch Center at 3600-Wheeler Ave. Just off Duke Street just east of Quaker Lane. Meeting starts at 7PM and ends at 9PM. The next meeting is August 10th..

Our program will be Marine Corps Marathon (WD5DBC). Mark KM4GML will also provide us with more on Linex. The MCM is THE biggest and most public of public service events for amateur radio. It takes about 135 operators performing eyes on the course, aid station support, logistics support at food and water stops and organizational support for the Marine Corps' zone commanders. Additionally 6 meter ARPS has been used to track the progress of the lead runner and the official end of the race.

Many of our members have dinner at Atlantis Restaurant in the Bradlee Shopping Center on the south side of Rt 7 just east of 395 most arrive around 5:30. Our program presenters are invited to join us.

July Meeting

We had three short programs at the last meeting. First was Mark, KM4GML with an introduction to Linex. Mark pointed out that older computers that

Ian, N8IK gave an introduction to the hardware for the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN). The cost to set up a node is less than \$200, but it requires that the radio device be reprogrammed to operate on the AREDN (ham radio) channels and in the MESH (self-discovery, ad hoc) network mode. Because this is a 2.4 GHz radio system, propagation is LINE OF SIGHT with foliage being a significant factor. The idea is that you get data at WIFI data rates without interference from commercial WIFI operations. This system looks like a suitable candidate for replacing the D-STAR 1.2Ghz data system at MCM and a way to operate at high data rates in the event the internet (read MA-BELL) goes down. If we have enough interest, we may want to set up nodes around the city to support ARES and to facilitate a larger area network.

We had a short run down on Field Day. Our scores were up but we still need to get some of our newer members on the air. As we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, it looks like we did quite well.

President's Corner

Today I was thinking about my goals; general life goals, habits I wish to break, and goals for my hobbies, etc. If you wish, join me in thinking about your ham radio goals if you have any. For myself, I would love to earn WAS and DXCC as well as finally learn CW.

73,

Monica, KC2IAY

Berryville Hamfest

Berryville is one of the better local hamfests. It's at the fairgrounds off Rt. 7 and is under the trees, has a fair number of vendors and a big flea market.

This year it was a bit muddy, but the sun was out and while the weather was a bit warm and muggy, it was a good hamfest. Lots of gear of all types for sale. Many of the club regulars were there and it was the type of hamfest where you can catch up with friends you have not seen in years. WV8AA, Andy was there and he has not been to a club meeting in quite a while. He does live in WEST VIRGINIA, so I understand his absence. Lots of older radio gear and parts

EDITORIAL

The club has over 50 members but the same few cover the work of the club. There have been some comments that that core of members actually run the club. The club is made up of its total membership. If you have an idea or want the club to take some action or not take action then you need to speak up.

The club has term limits on its officers of two years. The reason for this is that we want fresh leadership and ideas. In order to ease the workload of new officers the club has a robust chairmanship system where some of the members continue to do some of the tasks. The most important one is our Trustee. The Trustee is responsible for the legal operation of our repeaters and other radios. Rich, KA4GFY is our trustee.

We have a membership chair, a newsletter editor, a Field Day chair and others who step forward.

I make this point to impress on our members that there are a lot of things to do in support of the club and I encourage all members to jump in.

73 Rick N4ASX

IMPROVING YOUR HF OPERATING SKILLS

One of the complaints about Field Day has been that there are only 5 operating positions and we have over 50 members. That would imply that each radio should support 10 operators. When operations start at 2PM the radios are usually operated by the team captains. But about 5PM we break for dinner and then many of our members disappear. This may be that there is some mic-fright.

In order to allow for more training on our club radios, I would like to suggest that we pick three or four contests over the next year, leading up to Field Day, to set up a radio or two in a park. We have the trailer with HF and other radios, the club has TWO generators and all we need to do is get a few antennas in the air. The idea would be for some of us who have experience with HF to coach our newer members during a contest to help those new members get the feel of HF operation. At the next meeting we should discuss this and pick a few weekends to set up.
73 Rick, N4ASX

For Sale: (NEW SECTION)

From Steve, K3IZs items Call Rick N4ASX if your interested in the below items

Steve had a bunch of odds and ends that were not sold at Berryville. These are a few of the items
2 Meter amp 3 -5 in 25 out - \$35
Heil Traveler headset for ICOM radios - \$35
Hamsticks for 8 bands - \$10 each
223 Mhz J-pole in plastic pipe - \$15
Mag mount 2 meter antenna - \$10
A memory keyer,
HF Linear Amplifier interface
A home made Can-Tenna dummy load
A set of speakers for a computer
Lots of wall warts.
A few battery chargers.

Listed by Craig K4GOR

Icom IC 765	\$600
Yaesu FT-1000	\$1100
Yaesu FT-736	\$400
Kenwood SM220	\$300
Drake L7	\$800
Heath SB200	\$300
Collins 30S-1	\$1600
Collins 51-S1	\$900
Collins 75-S3C	\$400
Collins 75-S1	\$150

Collins 32-S3 \$400
Collins 32-S1 \$150
Henry 4K Ultra \$2500

If interested contact me by e mail at gor.craig@verizon.net

Listed by Rick, N4ASX

Ten Tec Corsair II station, Radio has 1.8Khz and 500Hz filters, External VFO and matching speaker and power supply - \$600

MFJ 1.5KW tuner -\$100

Astron 20A 12 Volt Power Supply \$40.

I have a few Midland Commercial radios that can be programmed on a Windows computer free to a good home. I have ONE 6 meter 100 watt unit that has been programmed with 22 channels. This does not seem like a great deal of memory, but there are not a lot of repeaters on 6 meters and only a few simplex channels. I have a 100 channel 2 meter radio , 40 watts and a 440 Mhz 22 channel 40 watt radio. FREE to a good home. I may even have the programming software and some programming cables.

73 Rick N4ASX, N4ASX@cox.net

THE NEXT GENERATION OF HAMS

Below is Matt, KN4IJH's harmonic getting into the gear.



Future Programs

August 10, 2018 – MCM and Mark on Linex....

September 14,2018 -- City Emergency Service and ARES
October 12, 2018 – Planning for 2019, Nominations, budget etc.
November 9, 2018 -- Elections
December 14,2018 – Annual Holiday Party. (Fiona’s ??)

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. If you know someone you would like to have present a program, let me know Rick, N4ASX

Hamfests.–

The VA Section Convention in VA Beach is on September 8, 2018 in VA Beach, sponsored by Tidewater radio Conventions. Its right off I-264 near the VA Beach oceanfront at the VA Beach Convention Center. Talk-in is on the 146.895 (PL 141.3.Hz) repeater. Here is the link: <http://virginiabeachhamfest.com/>

[The Columbia Amateur Radio Association’s CARAFest is on October 7, 2018 at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. Its near the intersection of I-70 and Route 32. Here is the link: http://www.carafest.org/](http://www.carafest.org/)

Training –

Our next class starts on October 2 and ends December 4, 2018. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a ham, let them know.

The new Technician question pool became effective on July 1 and the questions have been updated to cover areas today’s Technicians will be doing once licensed.

Contests –

August 11 and 12 – Maryland - DC QSO Party. Exchange is class and state. Most of us operating from home are a “Standard” station.

August 18 and 19 – North American QSO Party, SSB. Exchange is name and state.

August 19 – ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY. Exchange is name, 2 digit year you were first licensed and state.

August 25 and 26 – Hawaii QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

August 25 and 26 – W/VE Islands QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

August 25 and 26 – Kansas QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

August 25 and 26 – Ohio QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

September 1 and 2 – Colorado QSO Party. Exchange is name and state.

September 1 and 2 - Alabama QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

September 2 and 3 – Tennessee QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

September 8 through 10 – ARRL September VHF Contest. Exchange is 4 character grid square.

September 15 and 16 – Iowa QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

September 15 and 16 – New Hampshire QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

September 15 and 16 – Washington State Salmon Run. Exchange is RST and state.

September 15 and 16 – New Jersey QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

Don't forget, be sure to send in your log within 5 days after the contest ends for all ARRL sponsored contests.

REMEMBER to support the CLUB'S score for contests by providing Ian N8IK your info (Name, Call sign and Grid Square location) and submit your scores for the contests you play in. Contesting is one way we show that we are using our frequency allocations.

Contests may not be your thing, but contests are a great way to show outside interests we do use our valuable spectrum. By showing we use our spectrum, other services will have a hard time proving that we don't use our spectrum and it's up for re-allocation to someone else.

Contests can also be a great way to become introduced to HF communications. While it can be intense, pick the contest and jump in. Most contests have a limited exchange so it is usually easy to get what the other station needs.

Repeaters –

In addition to the regular Thursday night net on the 147.315 repeater, there was a proposal in the February ARC Shorts to do a follow – on net on other ARC repeaters. The rotation would include other analog repeaters as well as the digital repeaters.

I have seen discussions on the ham radio websites and even heard on our repeaters about digital voice modes i.e. DSTAR, DMR, System Fusion, P25 and which one will become the “standard.”

DSTAR and System Fusion were created for ham radio. There are some capabilities unavailable on DMR. DMR was designed for commercial users who don't understand a lot about radio and hams have adapted it to their use, in true ham fashion. P25 is not as popular among hams, but there are dedicated users.

Some hams have said they are holding off buying any digital radios until one mode becomes more popular than the others. You may be waiting a long time.

Depending on who you are listening to or reading, the proponents of each digital mode will tell you theirs is overtaking the others and theirs will become the "standard." A big part of that is where you are. One mode catches on in a particular area once a club or an individual takes the plunge to put a new repeater featuring a new mode or a new band. Hams start buying equipment for that mode and band and it becomes popular in that area.

Let's not forget a big part of ham radio's reason for being is experimentation. By using any different modes at once, we are experimenting. There is plenty of room for all the modes, including ones that haven't been invented yet.

I know what some of you are thinking, there is no room for any more repeaters, so how can we have room for different digital modes? Easy, go to one of the other VHF or UHF bands besides 2 meters or 70 cm.

The club repeaters are all up and running. The Alexandria Radio Club has analog, DSTAR and DMR repeaters. No other club in the area has that many repeaters. As always, 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. Mark up on the repeater about 6PM and join the group. The location does change! IF you have a good spot, you might suggest it to the group.