

ARC-SHORTS

July 2019

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

PLEASE USE OUR REPEATERS.

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Our next meeting is July 12th. We meet at 3600 Wheeler Ave in Alexandria at 7PM and the meeting ends, more or less, at 9PM. Many members get together at Atlantis Restaurant in the Bradlee shopping center at 5PM for dinner prior to the meeting. The Bradlee shopping center is on the south side of RT. 7 just east of 395, 3600 Wheeler is off of Duke Street about 1 block west of Quaker Lane. Informal talk in on the 147.315 repeater.

This meeting we will host Jack W4JJ. Afghan Amateur Radio License, T6LC was granted from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on 2 December 2009 I closed my station on 8 March 2010 Combat DX-pedition is complete. Jack came out to Field Day.

May MINUTES

Meeting minutes for May ARC Meeting

Date: 06/14/2019

Time: 1900h

Location: Alexandria Police Dispatch Center

The June meeting was dedicated to FIELD DAY. Below, from our Field Day Chair:

There is only one month left before Field Day 2019. The FD19 planning group has been at work for over two months preparing for FD19. The completed FD19 plans will be presented at the June meeting, June 14th. Some of the planning objectives are for:

- 65th Anniversary Celebration – (N4ASX comments) Great success!
- Promote Digital Mode Operations - Two Stations running FT-8 with our over 150 contacts
- Class 7A Operation – Experiment – some work needs to be don on co-site interference
- Maximize Bonus Points – Think we did well.

- Sign-up List for Operators - Mixed reaction – We need to find a way to get MORE of our operators to OPERATE!!!!
- Enhanced Public Outreach – Visits by CERT, Chief Smedley and his CW, Ray Whatley and Brent Ruggles and a proclamation from the Mayor.
 - Newspapers, TV
 - Public Officials
 - Youth groups, and Schools
- Promoted Arlington Club Participation

FIELD DAY

This year's Field Day was a grand departure from what we had been doing for the past 10 years. First, Don asked to take on the duty as the Field Day Chairman. He spent a great deal of time and energy making sure that Field Day 2019 goals were established, and a detailed plan put in place to make Alexandria Radio Club's 2019 Field Day combined with the 65th Anniversary inclusive and more productive event.

Starting with the idea that we have over 80 members and need to have as many of our newer members operate as possible. But as the saying goes you can lead a ham to a radio but you cannot make him operate. That said many of our members who had not operated at Field Day previously spent time at the radios. Check this goal off as accomplished. Not all of the comments are in, but I think we can do more next year to provide some HF radio practice operations to get even more operators on the AIR.

Goal 2 was to celebrate our 65th anniversary. Don did a great job, first by including the city administration in the event by bringing the club's anniversary to the attention of the mayor. This resulted in a proclamation that bares out the importance of Amateur Radio and the Club's support to the city in the past. We don't have a lot of emergencies in Alexandria, but our club has continually served the Alexandria community in various capacities. This point was highlighted by the city's new Fire Chief and the Emergency Management team dropping by, The Alexandria CERT Lead came by and operated our radios! Thanks Doctor Marjorie Windelberg!

Goal 3 was to demonstrate our readiness to operate in an emergency environment. Many would say that with modern communications, amateur radio is no longer relevant. This shows many people don't have a good appreciation of the variabilities of internet or infrastructure-based communications. Field Day shows that we can communicate, by voice, digital, and even CW with NO preplanned infrastructure. We had solar power, battery power, and our generators. Even when one of our generators failed to operate, we had power for all of our stations. It looks like our digital operation lead by Ed, W4EDF, was a great success.

We did have some issues with co-site interference. Seems like the hot band was 40 meters and at one time on Saturday we had the GOTA station, the 40 Meter SSB station, the CW station and the digital

station all on the band. The digital station unfortunately did not have the ability to turn off the AGC so each close in signal caused the digital unit to drop out. That's just how the bits work.

We have nearly a year to examine the interference problem and come up with the best solutions for next year for how to operate multiple modes on a limited number of bands.

Another issue is that by 9PM or so, MOST of our members had disappeared and did not reappear until 7AM or so Sunday. This left the few who stayed up all night to operate. A great deal of effort was made to get NEW operators on the air and give them a chance to operate. I realize that the hours from 9PM to 7AM may not be PRIME TIME, but it's a good time for a new operator to learn.

Please send Don, KI4D, your inputs on Field Day 2019 in the hopes that next year we can do an even better job.

73 Rick
N4ASX

Hamfests –

Early next month is the Berryville Hamfest on August 4, 2019 at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds. It's sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. Here is the link: <https://svarc.us/hamfest/>. They feature a barbeque lunch that is well worth the trip. We can arrange caravanning and carpooling for anyone who like to travel in a group or needs a ride.

Looking ahead is the TailgateFest in Hollywood, MD on October 5, 2019, <http://www.k3hki.org/> and the CARAFest on October 6, 2019, <http://www.carafest.org/> . Both are close by.

Training –

Our Fall 2019 class is in the planning stages. We plan to start on October 8 and end December 3, 2019. There are already students lining up, so if you know someone who is looking for a class to earn their first license or upgrade to General, let them know. Our last class had an impressive 100% pass rate

Contests –

- July 13 and 14 – IARU HF World Championship. Exchange is RST and IARU zone. We are in Zone 8.
- July 20 and 21 – CQ Worldwide VHF Contest. Six and two meters only. Exchange is 4-character grid square. We are in FM18.

- July 20 and 21 – North American QSO Party – RTTY. Exchange is name and state.
- August 3 and 4 – ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest. All VHF/UHF bands above 222 MHz. Exchange is 4-character grid square. We are in FM18.
- August 3 and 4 – North American QSO Party – CW. Exchange is name and state.
- August 10 and 11 – Maryland - DC QSO Party. Exchange is class and state. Most of us operating from home are a “Standard” station.

Don't forget, be sure to send in your log within 7 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.

Repeaters –

The club repeaters are all up and running. We will have to resume the follow-on net on one of the other repeaters after the Thursday net on the 2 meter analog repeater.

Thanks to Chris, KN4DHD, for obtaining the Motorola MTR-2000 repeater for the club. The plan is to install it in the trailer. We will get it programmed for one of the TMARC shared non-protected pairs to be used at public service events such as GW Birthday Parade.

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

73, Rich, KA4GFY

Future Programs

2019

July – T6LC / W4JJ – Operations from Afghanistan

August – Ed W4EDF – Digital HF operations

September -

October -

November – Club Elections – New President and Vice President.

December - Party

At this time, I do not have programs for August, September or 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. If you know someone you would like to have present a program, let me know

In April we had Jason talk about the Cold War Museum in Vint Hill. He pointed out that the museum is FREE on weekends. I would like to suggest that we hold our September meeting not on Friday evening, but shift to Saturday Morning at the Cold War Museum. We can discuss at the next meeting.

Rick, N4ASX

ARES

I have had a few questions about our ARES group. First, How many volunteers do we have. I have a list of 15, but it has not been updated for a LONG time. If you would like to volunteer for Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) in Alexandria. There are just a few things to consider.

1 – You cannot volunteer for more than one area. If we were to have a wide spread (i.e. weather) event, where more than one area was affected, some EC would be short a volunteer as you can ONLY volunteer for one at a time.

2 – You can volunteer with NO training, but it is expected that you will complete FEMA IS 100, 200 and 700. It is also beneficial to take the ARRL ARES class.

3 – Gear is not an issue. You can volunteer at any license class and at any experience level. If you only have a two-meter handheld, then the EC will know when you fill out the ARES volunteer form and your assignments will be made with that in mind.

4 – We ask that all volunteers check into the club net at least once a month and participate in at least one drill or public service event per year.

5 – All you need to do to volunteer is have a willingness to help in those rare occasions when we are needed.

73 Rick

N4ASX

Alexandria EC.

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.