

ARC-SHORTS

December 2019 / January 2020

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 December 13th and it is the Annual Holiday Party. The party will be at Glory Day's Restaurant about 6PM. (I THINK) Check into the Thursday Evening Net at 8PM to get final Details. I'm sure Ian, N8IK will send out more details on our mailing list. Parking is free. The restaurant is located in the Alexandria Commons shopping center - 3141 Duke St, Alexandria, VA 22314

November Meeting

We had a great program on Cold War technology transfer to our every day use. Mike Washville did a masterful job of tracking the progress from World War II encryption to modern spread spectrum communications that are embedded in our computer communications and our cell phone technology. Hope we can get a group together to visit the Cold War museum soon.

We also held out annual election of officers. As I recall, there were no nominations from the floor and the following were elected.

President - Lewis Donovan (Don) K4ID

Vice President – Mark Bonanno KM4GML

Treasurer – Richard Morani KW4UJ

Secretary – William H Wilson KM4KLK

FIELD DAY RESULTS

Alexandria RC W4HFH (+KC2IAY) 862 2 70 4,598 VA

We were 10th out of 19 7A stations. After 4PM those running the digital station shut down one of the two stations reducing our FT-8 effort. We also had some mutual interference on 40 meters due to poor conditions on other bands. Not a bad effort. Our goal has always been for our members to have a good time and toss in a little HF education in the process.

Hamfests –

The next hamfest in our area is the SantaFest in Cheltenham, MD on December 7, 2019. It's sponsored by Prince Georges County ARES and The American Legion. Here is the link: <http://www.pgares.org/>

Looking ahead to next year, is the Post Holiday Hamfest, in Odenton, MD, sponsored by the Maryland Mobileers on January 26. The location is the Odenton Fire Station right off I-95 and Route 175. Talk-in is on the 146.805 MHz repeater (PL 107.2 Hz). Here is the link: <https://sites.google.com/site/marylandmobileers/hamfests-1/hamfest-2>

The following weekend on February 1, 2020 in Richmond, VA is the Frostfest, sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society. It's located at the Richmond Raceway Complex (formerly the VA State Fairgrounds) in Richmond. It's easy to get to and the Alexandria Radio Club makes it a social event with a breakfast meeting in Fredericksburg and a caravan to the hamfest. More details as we get closer. Here is the link: <http://frostfest.com/wp/>

Training –

Our Fall, 2019 class is winding down with the exam on December 10. We don't have the results this month because press time was too early, but we will have the results next month.

Our next class is scheduled to start on March 10 and end May 5, 2020. We are already getting inquiries about the next class. If you know somebody who has always wanted to become a ham, send them our way.

We have a very successful program. Nearly all of our students pass the exam with 90% or better and we do not teach the test, we teach the material.

Contests –

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- Dec 6 to 8 – ARRL 160-meter contest. Exchange is RST and ARRL/RAC section.
- Dec 7 and 8 – FT8 Roundup. Exchange is RST and state.
- Dec 14 and 15 – ARRL 10-meter contest. Exchange is RST and state.
- Dec 22 – ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW. Exchange is Name, 2-digit year first licensed and state.
- Jan 4 and 5 – ARRL RTTY Roundup. Exchange is RST and state.
- Jan 11 and 12 – North American QSO Party – CW. Exchange is name and state.

- Jan 18 and 19 – North American QSO Party – SSB. Exchange is name and state.
- Jan 18 and 19 – ARRL January VHF Contest. 50 MHz and up. Exchange is 4-character grid square.

Don't forget, be sure to send in your log within 7 days after the contest ends for all ARRL sponsored contests. ARRL now uses a web application for contest log submissions. Here is the link: <http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org/> Be sure to convert your file to Cabrillo format before submitting. Most logging programs support the Cabrillo format.

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. If the contest asks for a club affiliation, the Alexandria Radio Club is on the list of contest clubs. 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.

State QSO parties are a great introduction to contesting. Most are low-key and the exchange is limited.

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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.

The DSTAR and DMR repeaters continue to get a lot of use.

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

73, Rich, KA4GFY

ARES

Short reminder, ANYONE can be an ARES volunteer, Training is primarily the FEMA on-line IS-100,200,700 and 800 classes about 30 minutes each and the ARRL ARES class which is optional. You can volunteer without these classes. Training for members also includes our weekly nets and public service events. If you wish to volunteer send an E-Mail to Rick, N4ASX N4ASX@arrl.net

ARRL has a new set of requirements for ARES training. You may have received an e-mail from the STATE ARES organization which announces the new training program and asks you to use the ARRL / ARES Standardized Training Plan / ARES Emergency Communicators Individual Task Book. I will send this document out to all members of the club on our list along with a volunteer form. One new item is that we are to retake some of these classes every two years. All of this is optional, but I would like to ask that every two years (say in January) our ARES volunteers update their training and send the EC a copy of your ARES Emergency Coordinator Individual Task Book with supporting docs.

One last Item – I will stay on for a few more months as ARES EC, but I am ACTIVELY looking for a replacement person to become the Emergency Coordinator (EC). It would be good if that person has experience with ARES, has taken IS100,200,700 and 800 as well as the ARRL ARES class. This all can be done after you volunteer. The EC leads the Alexandria ARES, supporting the City, Alexandria Hospital and Alexandria Red Cross. The EC is also the interface to neighboring ARES organizations and answers to the District EC, WD5DBC, Howard. If you have the time and are interested call me.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mark, KI4GML for completing the Fairfax Police Education Program and to Wilson, KM4KLLK for completing the Fairfax Fire Department education program. Hope to hear more about these programs at our January meeting.

73 Rick
N4ASX
ARES emergency coordinator.

44th Marine Corps Marathon

Well, It rained like mad, but the 44th MCM is now done. For me this was my 34th MCM. The leadership group did a good job of getting the amateur radio support organized. Always some ways to make it better. Those inputs should be entered into the www.mcmham.org website under volunteer, After Action inputs.

This event takes upwards of 135 ham radio operators and it's always good when the operators are not OJT.

Because of the rain, there were more injuries, so ham radio support became much more important. Hams are the eyes and ears on the course. They also provide digital communications for the Aid Stations. This is done by D-STAR high speed digital on 1.2GHz using the ICOM ID-1 radios but I understand that this mode can be used with the new ICOM 9700. Back up for the D-Star digital is 9600 baud packet. This year I had problems with the log on, but the RF connection was solid. A new addition this year was Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN). Apparently, it was a partial success and may need some refinement to link to the medical database.

Several other club members participated. Many thanks. This is a very public event and our support is very well received.

William KM4CLK was out in the rain at MM17.5 and noted that it was a wet day for him.

He provided the following pictures:





Future Programs

2019

November – Elections and planning for 2020

October – AREDN show and tell – Demo – BRING YOUR AREDN node and laptop.

November – Mike Washville on Cold War tech in use today. Club Elections

December - Party

2020

January – New officer's – Organizational Planning for 2020. Chairmanships, Committees, Budget, Projects, etc.

February – Washington's Birthday planning – Mark (Tentative) on Lenix

March –

April -

May – Field Day planning and preparation meeting

June –

July –

August –

September –

October –

November – Elections

December - Party

At this time, I do not have a lot of programs for next year. YOU DON'T NEED TO PRESENT; just suggest a topic you would like 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

ALEXANDRIA RADIO CLUB WEEKLY NET

The club has a weekly net on the 147.315 (PL 107.2) repeater at 8 PM local time for about one hour. Out of a club of 80 members, the turn out for our weekly net is about 10 to 12. Maybe it because we have not publicized the net.

Jack, KC7VOU is our net control manager. He keeps track of who checks in and who volunteers for net control.

The purpose of our net is to practice net operations, share information of interest to the club, ARES and amateur radio in general.

Those who have ID-51As on loan for ARES use need to check in with these radios once a month and participate in one ARES or public service activity each year.

The net starts with check ins: first short time (those who can only stay for a short time), portables and mobile stations, then regular stations. Once we have check ins, The Net Control Station (NCS) will go through the list of check ins and get the first round of comments. During the net, the NCS will ask for late check ins and add them to the list. At the bottom of the list, the NCS will go back to the top of the list for additional comments. This gives all a chance to react to the other comments. At the end of the second round, the NCS will ask for any additional comments, questions or late check ins.

If there is time or interest the NCS may suggest that a second net be held on one of our other repeaters. We can go D-STAR, DMR, 6 Meters, 1.25 Meters, 70cm, 900Hz or 1.2Ghz.

Jack is now keeping a record of check ins and we will have some recognition for those who check in the most, and for our most active NCS volunteers.

Thanks Jack,

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.