

ARC-SHORTS

July 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.

Presidents Input 7/5/2020

As you know our just completed Field Day 2020 was very, very different from Field Days in the past. Despite the number of challenges posed by changes this year, many club members participated in Field Day 2020 representing Alexandria Radio Club.

Many thanks to those who operated Field Day stations and will report ARRL summaries giving affiliation with our club. Preliminary results of Field Day activities will be presented at the July meeting.

As we observe the continuing impacts of COVID-19 on our daily lives, we naturally look forward when we can safely resume our normal club activities. As of June 30th, Virginia Executive Order (EO)-67 Northern Virginia implemented “Safer to Stay at Home” Phase 3 of reopening the economy, easing some of the legal restrictions due to COVID-19. However, there are many strong caveats listed in [Virginia’s guidance](#) for businesses, religious, and other gatherings.

We are committed to a Zoom meeting for July, but we are not absolutely certain about August, still hoping for a better COVID-19 scenario. If the Marine Corps Marathon is cancelled, as many other marathons have been, we will have not have the scheduled marathon briefing for our August meeting. For this reason, N4ASX and I are working on an alternative Zoom presentation for the August meeting.

Given the mixed set of indicators concerning reopening the economy and continued spread of COVID-19 in some states, Alexandria Radio Club leadership has not elected to recommend resumption of in-person club activities.

It is worth noting that because COVID-19 has spurred the phenomenal growth in use of ZOOM as a vehicle for social interaction, a resulting benefit is that amateur radio clubs are now sharing opportunities for other amateur radio clubs to join their Zoom presentations that feature special presentations.

The passing of longtime club member Craig Church (K4GOR), <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/falls-church-va/craig-church-9218827>, has created

opportunities for club leadership to review standardizing ways the club can respond to and honor club SK members. We are currently working to develop ideas for improvements in this very meaningful area.

We are delighted and fortunate to have several new club members, including those passing FCC exams from our recent FCC license class. New club members joining during the month of June to present are Floyd Crawford (KO4DWA), Eliu Napky, Ted Royster (N4JOG), Kelly Wilkin (KO4ERF), Michael Sullivan (KO4ERE), and Bryan Pettigrew (Grew) (KO4ERX). We welcome them, all.

As a reminder, we are looking forward to our monthly meeting on July 10th that will feature an AMSAT presentation via Zoom by Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, Executive Vice President of AMSAT. Founded in 1969, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corp. (AMSAT) is an all-volunteer organization that has been devoted to “keeping amateur radio in space” over the past 50 years. Details on AMSAT Field Day 2020 rules may be found at: <https://www.amsat.org/field-day/>.

Scheduled Activities and Presentations for 2020 updated as of July 3, 2020

- January 10th – MEETING, 2020 Plans & Programs, Membership Dues
- February 1st – FROSTFEST, Richmond, VA
- February 14th – MEETING, VA QSO Party, Gordon Miller (NQ4K)
- February 17th – George Washington Day Parade Participation
- March 10th – License Classes begin (Ends May 5)
- March 7th – St Patrick’s Day Parade
- March 13th – (CANCELLED) MEETING, AREDN, Joe Porcelli (KT3I)
- March 21-22nd – VA QSO Party Weekend
- March 29th (CANCELLED) WINTERFEST, Annandale, VA
- April 8th – (POSTPONED INDEFINITELY) FIELD DAY 2020 planning committee kickoff (John Marshall Library)
- April 10th – ZOOM MEETING, Alexandria CERT, Dr. Marjorie Windelberg
- May 8th – ZOOM MEETING, WINLINK, Greg Butler (KW6GB)
- May 15-17th – (CANCELLED) HAMVENTION, Dayton, OH
- May 16th – HAMVENTION QSO Party
- June 12th – ZOOM MEETING, FIELD DAY 2020 final briefing
- June 21st – ARC (STAY SAFE) License Class FCC Exams
- June 27-28th – (STAY SAFE) FIELD DAY 2020 Weekend

You ARE HERE

- July 10th – ZOOM MEETING, AMSAT, Paul Stoetzer (N8HM)
- August 2nd – (CANCELLED), Berryville HAMFEST, Berryville, VA
- August 14th – (TBD) MEETING, Marine Corps Marathon Briefing
- September 11th – MEETING, TBA
- October 9th -- MEETING, Ham Radio Outlet, Steve Gilmore (W4SHG)
- October 25th – MARINE CORPS MARATHON

- November 13th – Meeting, Year in Review, Elections
- December 11th – Meeting, Christmas party

Please stay safe and keep up with your social distancing.

73 Don, KI4D

ARC Monthly Meeting Notes June 12, 2020

Craig E. Church (N4GOR) passed away June 11, 2020 COVID-19 the Alexandria Radio Club acknowledged his passing with a moment of silence at our monthly meeting.

Don KI4D, provided us with an overview of Field Day 2020:

- Work as many stations as possible
- Develop your skills to meet the challenges to meet emergency preparedness
- Learn to operate in abnormal situations
- Acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio

Field Day under COVID-19 Conditions

Along with Alexandria Radio Club, several other amateur radio clubs successfully lobbied the ARRL Board of Directors for a waiver to allow ARRL clubs to receive credit for Field Day 2020 stations operating safely from home. The waiver made it possible for ARC to operate as a “club” during Field Day, with some differences from the past. The waiver has two important provisions: 1.) allowing QSO points for class “D” to class “D” station contacts and 2.) summing of individual scores into an aggregate “club” score. Field Day rules defines a class “D” station as a home station on commercial power.

- No public event involved
- No Band Captains
- Recommended Classes of Operation (B, C, or E)
- Recommended Bonus Points
- Identification of Club Operators
- Collect “Club” logged contacts for Consolidation
- Field Day QSOs should be conducted using individual ham call signs with logs provided to N8IK or ARRL <https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>

Field Day Class Rules:

- Class A – Club multi-station, public area within 300 meters, (not possible this year for us)
- Class B - Battery
- Class C - Mobile
- Class D - Home Station using commercial power
- Class E - Home Station using Emergency Power

Field Day Logging Software:

The following logging software is known to offer support for Field Day, and can be used for logging field day contacts.

- FLog
- N3FJP
- N1MM+
- SkookumLogger (Mac OS)

The following Committee Reports were provided:

- ARES/RACES – N4ASX
- Membership – KW4UT
- History Project – KI4D
- Repeaters - KA4GFY/K4GOR
- AREDN Project – N8IK
- Trailer – KA4GFY
- Webmaster – K4AXQ/N8IK

Old Business

Trailer Upgrade

NEXT MEETING JULY 10th

Our next meeting will be VIA ZOOM. Don, KI4D, will send out the invitation shortly.

As a reminder, Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, will give a presentation on AMSAT at our monthly meeting next Friday.

Paul is Executive Vice President of AMSAT and will give us an update on many of the exciting things going on with amateur radio and satellites.

As many of you may know our club has pledged to participate in Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS), a program to inspire students, worldwide, to pursue interests and careers in science, technology, engineering and math through amateur radio communications opportunities with the International Space Station (ISS) on-orbit crew. In the ARISS program the Alexandria Radio Club would provide an amateur radio communications link from the ISS to Children at the Children's Hospital in Washington, DC. Enclosed are links to the June AMSAT publication; and a link to the ARISS program, which was recently reorganized as an independent non-profit organization.

ANS-159 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins for June 7th - AMSAT

<https://www.amsat.org/ans-159-amsat-news-service-weekly-bulletins-for-june-7th/>

ARISS - Home

<https://www.ariss.org/>

73 Don, KI4D

FIELD DAY

This year was unique with our working from home stations most in the class 1D mode, but the exercise was valid in that in many emergencies we may be asked to operate from our own stations. If we had to we could have added emergency power and replaced antennas. Keep this in mind for your future preparedness. This event will if you work a fair number of hours, an good idea how well your station works over the contest period. Please remember to put Alexandria Radio Club in your report so the club gets the points. If you would, please send a copy of your summary to Don, KI4D. Thanks to all in the club who participated in a unique Fieldless Field Day.

If your using the N3FJP F.D. logging software, Go to Files, Then EXPORT. Select. ADI export. When you do this, you will get a screen that offers you THREE outputs, SUMMARY, DUP SHEET and CABRILLO Select Summary and store it where you can print it out. Or you can copy the contacts per band Go to the ARRL website <http://field-day.arrl.org/fdentriescvtd.php> then fill out the submission. YOUR CALL SIGN but there is a pull down for clubs. Alexandria Radio Club in the CLUB is in the pull down so use that, so we are all on the same page.

The site will accept you report, and you will get an e-mail confirmation with your score based on how you filled in the form. Please also send the file copy of your summary to Don KI4D so he can get an idea of who participated.

73 Rick N4ASX

NEXT CLUB MEETING

We are still meeting on ZOOM until the COVID-19 issue is resolved. A reminder that ZOOM is always updating their application / software so before you log into the ZOOM meeting, check for any updates.

As Don said above, our next program will be provided by AMSAT.

MCM 2020

At this time, the MCM has NOT been cancelled. For personal reasons I (N4ASX) will not be able to participate, but I strongly encourage those who can sign up and support this especially important event. At a time when this country is deeply divided, this event is something without a political point of view. It shows support for our Marines and the work they do for us. It also is an exceptionally good PR event for amateur radio. For those who are new to amateur radio, this event involves about 135 ham radio operators provided medical communications support, eyes on the course, safety support and some logistics support. There are usually two or three 'race nets' a medical voice net and digital modes for

passing patient traffic from the aid stations to the top doctor and for sending medical assistance where needed.

BELOW IS FROM ART FELLER W4ART who is working as part of the Amateur Radio Leadership Team for the MCM.

Signups begin 15 July 2020. Go to: <https://www.mcmham.org>.

The marathon and 50K courses now planned to be the same as last year with about 12K runners instead of 22K in the marathon. 10K will be virtual (not on this course). Race starting procedure expected to space out smaller groups of runners.

Navy docs have been working hard with CDC guidelines and other resources to keep all runners, spectators, and volunteers safe. Specific details expected soon. If anything might put volunteers at risk, our operators will be informed.

Most operation along the course will be on the 144 and 420 MHz bands using NBFM voice. Most hand-held radios will do. Efficient antennas and adequate power supply necessary. (Will provide examples. Antenna add on can be made for ten cents. Long life power supplies can be made for under \$10, often less than \$5.) Operators are expected to know how to operate their own equipment. Need help? Ask sooner, rather than later. This is a great opportunity to learn.

Medical net operations will be on 128 Kbps D-Star and ARDN microwave operations with 9600 bps packet for backup. Interested? More operators needed!!! Lots of help available!!!

New hams welcome and wanted, especially teaming with more experienced operators. Pick up ideas you'll use every day and when supporting other events.

Number of hams needed will be the same as usual because the course we cover remains the same.

Come. Learn. Experience. Get cool T-shirt. Have fun!!

Thanks!!

73, Art Feller

W4ART Arlington VA

ARES

Many of our new members have expressed an interest in public service and ARES. As the Emergency Coordinator, I need all the help I can get!

At this time, I have 9 volunteers for Alexandria ARES. ARRL is trying to improve communications and coordination with ARES organizations the state and national leadership. This is a good thing, but most of our support is based on LOCAL operations.

We generally support our community and we are organized to support local events. Think of ARES as the communications support equivalent of the Revolutionary minutemen. For day to day type emergencies, our emergency managers, fire, EMS, Police have all the communications they need and it is evolving with technology. Post 9/11/01 a great deal of government funding was put into more communications equipment.

So, with the changes in what the local governments have, what is our support mission? First, the city does not have the people to cover routine emergencies and a major disaster. So, ARES is available to cover the increased load. ARES can do an additional service in linking the City, the Hospital, a disaster site, Red Cross as well as provide communications links to other jurisdictions and we can, if time permits, provide health and welfare traffic.

New requirements for ARES volunteers. First, to find out what's going on in the state FACEBOOK is the place to get info (so I'm told), All ARES volunteers will be expected to sign up with ARRL ARES CONNECT VA. I understand that I will be able to keep records and post nets and events for our group on this site. Please sign up <https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/> When we get access to the hospital again, we will replace the DSL router for D-STAR and DMR repeaters. Hope to also figure out how to remote the two Dual Band radios from the machinery room to the office where the hospital wants us to set up our equipment.

Trailer work is now in the planning stages and CORVID-19 willing.

- 1 - Recoat the roof. We will need some structure to safely work on the roof.
- 2 - Add the DMR (440 MHz), 900MHz and HF antennas. Include a switch to allow the IC706 to access the VHF and 6 meter antennas for all mode operation on those bands.
- 3 - Install the IC706MKIIG, 900MHz mobile radio and the DMR (CS800).
- 4- Still looking for a replacement scanner radio. If we get one, we will want to replace the old Radio Shack scanner.
- 5 - add shelving and clean out the CRAP stored in the trailer.
- 6 - AREDN is also something we need to think about.
- 7 - A large monitor may be in the future as well.

73 Rick
N4ASX

Hamfests -

The spread of COVID-19 (AKA Corona Virus) has put a major damper on hamfests.

So far in our area, Winterfest, Fredfest and Hagerstown Hamfests have been cancelled. The Raleigh and Durham, NC hamfests have been cancelled. The Delmarva hamfest has been cancelled. The Memorial weekend hamfest was cancelled. Added to that list is Olde VA Hams

hamfest and the Father's Day hamfest at Arcadia in June. In early June, the Berryville hamfest was added to the list. The big disappointment to everyone is the cancellation of Hamvention 2020. The first time in their 68-year history.

With the ongoing COVID-19 situation, be sure to check the websites to make sure the hamfest has not been cancelled. Looking at the ARRL hamfest calendar, I see more and more hamfests with CANCELLED next to them. This may be a lean year for hamfests, or any other activity where people gather in large numbers. Check any hobby/activity and we are all going through the same issues.

Training –

Our first-ever online Zoom licensing class concluded with the exam on Father's Day 2020, June 21. Thanks to KA3RQR and KW4UJ, we were able to secure a facility where social distancing could be practiced while the exam session operated in a fairly normal manner. Not every class member took an exam that day because of conflicting activities. However, here are the class members and a few others who passed an exam that day:

Robin Salota	KO4EQX
Patrick McGuinniss	KO4EQT
Kelly Wilkin	KO4ERF
Michaela LeMessurier	KO4EQV
Alan LeMessurier	KO4ERC
Erik Gilliam	KO4ERY
Don McClure	KO4ERG
Pamela Larson	KO4EQU
Bryan Pettigrew	KO4ERX
Michael Sullivan	KO4ERE
David Presson	KO4EQW
Richard Puckett	KO4EQY
Janet Prall	KO4ERB
Anthony Chu	KO4ERA
Craig Thoet	KO4EQZ

A big shout out to our very own Wilson, KM4KLLK, who passed his Extra Class exam.

A few class members have already joined the club and checked into the weekly net. When you hear them on the air, be sure to say "Hi" and welcome them to the world of ham radio.

FCC Application Grant OR Official FCC License

This email is to notify you of the recent grant of your application(s). The Commission currently provides access to the official version of your electronic licenses through License Manager in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) or by email.

The official version of your recently granted license can be accessed using the link below. Please

note that this link will connect you to the most current version of your license. If you use this link at a future date, any changes made after the receipt date of this email will be reflected on the authorization. This link will remain active for 30 days.

[Authorization Link](#)

Contests –

- July 11 and 12 – IARU HF World Championship. Exchange is RST and ITU zone. We are in ITU zone 8
- July 19 and 20 – CQ Worldwide VHF Contest. 6-meter and 2-meter bands. Exchange is 4-character grid square.
- Aug 1 and 2 – ARRL 222 MHz and up Distance Contest. 22 MHz and up. Exchange is 4-character grid square.
- Aug 1 and 2 – North American QSO Party-CW. Exchange is name and state.
- Aug 8 and 9 – Maryland/DC QSO Party. Exchange is entry class and state for non-MD/DC stations. Most of us operating from home will be a “standard” station.
- Aug 15 and 16 – North American QSO Party – SSB. Exchange is name and state.
- Aug 16 – ARRL Rookie Roundup. Exchange is name, 2 digit year your were first licensed and state.
- Aug 22 through 24 – Hawaii QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- Aug 22 and 23 – Ohio QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

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.

Speaking of state QSO parties, there is now a state QSO party challenge. You can start accumulating multipliers by submitting a log in any state or provincial QSO party to 3830scores.com QSOParty Groups.io.forum and State QSOParty.com.

Repeaters –

The club analog repeaters are all up and running. After replacing the router on the DSTAR/DMR equipment, everything worked normally on the DMR side right away. A couple days later, the DSTAR trust figure located W4HFH and things were functioning normally.

The week after Field Day, the server at the DSTAR site expired and we are back to local mode only on DSTAR until a new server can be installed. Fortunately, we already had one that is in the process of being configured. We should be back on in a couple of weeks.

The DMR side works perfectly. If you use the DMRVA codeplugs, they have updated codeplugs on their website with the new DMR repeaters added for many of the popular handheld and mobile DMR radios. Their website is <http://www.dmrva.org/>

We have resumed (semi-regularly) the follow-on net on one of the other repeaters after the Thursday net on the 2-meter analog repeater.

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

73, Rich, KA4GFY