

ARC-SHORTS

JULY 2021

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 Meeting

Our next ZOOM meeting will be Friday JULY 9th at 7PM. A ZOOM meeting invite will be sent out soon. The program will be an update on AREDN presented by Joe Porcelli (KT3I)

Last Meeting

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

Don KI4D convinced ARRL upper echelons to grant a waiver for Field Day 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 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.

- FDLog
- 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

Presidents Corner

Presidents Corner

It was a delight to experience Field Day 2021 again with the absence of Field Day last year. The last-minute change from a virtual Field Day to an in-person Field Day did not lessen the enjoyment. Thanks to Ian for quickly organizing and conducting a superb Field Day 2021 for our club members. It was good to see some of our newest club members step into action during Field Day. Todd Taylor and Jason Palmer proved that digital modes have a strong future in our Field Day operations of the future. A highlight of Field Day was a visit by the City of Alexandria Fire Chief, Chief Corey Smedley. Photos taken at ARC Field Day 2021 have been uploaded to the following link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dqDCU64AUTftN5iQ8>.

Regular club meeting events are still subject COVID-19 restrictions at our normal meeting location, the City of Alexandria Police Headquarters building. Until we are notified those restrictions are lifted and that we may resume our regular meetings, we will continue with virtual club meetings using Zoom.

The June 11 monthly featured the Field Day 2021 briefing by Ian Keith, Field Day Chair. The briefing can be viewed at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sUdm0I4jDD8rJ5E_90nZRfxCRZdSGqzZ/view?usp=sharing. The briefing began with a discussions of club concerns about COVID-19, the safety of attendees, and safety precautions developed by club leadership for Field Day. Field Day safety precautions were:

Fully vaccinated attendees can remove masks, but masks are preferred, if not social distancing

- Partially or unvaccinated attendees are strongly encouraged to wear masks with social distancing as a health precaution for everyone
- Those who are ill should not attend
- No food or beverages will be provided by the club, except for bottled water
- Hand sanitizer and Lysol wipes will be provided by the club
- Field Day 2021 safety officer duties will include a focus on health safety precautions
- Make sure to sign in -- beyond ARRL attendance reporting, the sign-in roster will be used in case there is a COVID-19 problem

On June 2, Alexandria Radio Club launched its first Tech Talk series with a Tech Talk #1. The talk featured a discussion of "Repeaters, how they work and much more" given by Tim (KT4MV). Tim's presentation on amateur radio repeaters included: Basic concepts, Locations, Equipment, Repeater controllers, Duplexers, PL tones, Voting systems and remote receivers, Remote links, Antennas and lightning protection, and Coordination. Thanks to Tim (KT4MV) for a great presentation. Tech Talk #1 has been posted for your viewing on <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rLwPKatBFGty-ppiY0Uw3skt8seDZqM/view?usp=sharing>. Tech Talk topics are based on a club survey conducted this past spring. However, all sessions are open to all hams. These talks will be conducted monthly during the coming months. The purpose of these sessions is to provide an opportunity for in-depth conversations, including Q&A, on a variety of ham radio topics. This follows up on ideas from club members desiring to build on their knowledge of ham radio. It is also hoped that these sessions will build on club mentoring efforts for our newest hams and will serve to promote their continuing interest in club activities. Finally, it is hoped that these sessions will lead to more interest in operator license upgrades enabled by increased knowledge of ham radio. A list of coming Tech Talk topics is enclosed at the end of this email.

This month, we are again delighted and fortunate to have several new club members. New club members joining since last month are Brian Cavanaugh (KOQQZ), Darrin Leleux Jason (KO3SFQ) and Dan Beckler (K9DGB). Please welcome all of them

Most ARES Safety vests were delivered during Field Day weekend for those who attended. The remaining vests are being held pending delivery. As announced during the June club meeting delivery of polo shirts with club logos have been delayed due to a lack of availability from the shirt vendor. Club members decided to wait 30 days for availability after June 29th.

ARC recorded Zoom meetings with featured presentations are located at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MG9VUqKOWeoWEWt0oBwychbzh4qILqbl?usp=sharing>.

The list of upcoming club activities and presentations planned for 2021 is listed below. The Club also welcomes any ideas from club members for programs and activities in 2021. Please send your ideas to president@w4hfh.org.

Scheduled Activities and Presentations for 2021 updated as of June 1, 2020

- January 8th – ZOOM MEETING, Pentagon Radio Club MARS Operations by Gary Sessums (KC5QCN), 2021 Plans & Programs, Voting Meeting
- February 6th – (CANCELLED) FROSTFEST, Richmond, VA
- February 12th – ZOOM MEETING, VA QSO Party, Gordon Miller (NQ4K)
- February 15th – (CANCELLED) George Washington Day Parade Participation
- March (Date) – License Classes begin, Ends May (Date)
- March 6th – (CANCELLED) St Patrick's Day Parade
- March 12th – ZOOM MEETING, How to Learn and Have Fun with Morse Code by Long Island CW Club, Howard (WB2UZE) and Jim (W6JIM)
- March 20-21th – VA QSO Party Weekend
- April 7th – ZOOM MEETING, FIELD DAY 2021 planning committee kickoff
- April 9th – ZOOM MEETING, West Mountain Radio, Mark Siegesmund (W9WMR)
- April 24th (VIRTUAL) WINTERFEST, Annandale, VA
- May 14th – ZOOM MEETING, Antenna Tuners: When do you need one, and how do they work? Barry Feierman (K3EUI)
- May 21-23rd – (CANCELLED) HAMVENTION, Dayton,
- June 11th – ZOOM MEETING, FIELD DAY 2020 final briefing
- June 26-27th – FIELD DAY 2021 Weekend

YOU ARE HERE!!!

- July 9th – ZOOM MEETING, AREDN, Joe Porcelli (KT3I)
- August 1st – Berryville HAMFEST, Berryville, VA
- August 13th – ZOOM MEETING, ARC ARES, Rick Bunn (N4ASX)
- September 10th – ZOOM MEETING, TBA
- October 8th – ZOOM MEETING, DX Engineering, Tim Duffy (K3LR)
- October 31st – MARINE CORPS MARATHON
- November 12th – MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Elections
- December 10th – MEETING, Christmas party

Proposed Tech Roundtable Topics for 2021 (Panel of experienced club members and others discussing their experiences with Q&A.)

1. Ham Activities for New Technician Class Hams
2. Handy talkies (HT) options, what kind, how much? Pros and Cons
3. Building a Go-kit for ARES
4. QRP (Reduced transmit power out)
5. Portable ops (rigs, batteries, antennas, etc.)
6. Mobile installations
7. Starter Base Station Options

8. Stealthy Antennas for city dwellers
9. QSL Cards
10. Getting Started with ECHOLINK
11. Getting Started with Amateur Radio Satellite Communications
12. Parks on the Air for Beginners
13. Working with Repeaters
14. Using NVIS
15. Working with Digital modes
16. Radio Scanners for Beginners
17. Packet Radio
18. Raspberry Pi Applications
19. Virtual Ham Shack Tour
20. Ham Shack Hotline
21. Installation and Logging with N3FJP
22. Matching Antennas to Feedlines
23. Propagation and Sunspot Cycle 25
24. "Time" for new amateur radio operators

Please get vaccinated and stay safe with masks and social distancing.

73 Don, KI4D

Richard Morani	XL
Rich Adamy	XXL
Pamela Larson	M
William Wilson	XXL
Steven Carr	XXL
Alex Carr	L

From: Don (KI4D) <don.ki4d@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 2:35 PM

To: 'WALKERL@mindspring.com' <WALKERL@mindspring.com>; 'sully@beachheadii.com' <sully@beachheadii.com>; 'bonanno.mark@gmail.com' <bonanno.mark@gmail.com>; 'jackparker@w4jj.com' <jackparker@w4jj.com>; 'N4ASX@cox.net' <N4ASX@cox.net>; 'ryan.stinebiser@gmail.com' <ryan.stinebiser@gmail.com>; 'comms@gallagher.us.com' <comms@gallagher.us.com>; 'richard.kw4uj@gmail.com' <richard.kw4uj@gmail.com>; 'ka4gfy@arrl.net' <ka4gfy@arrl.net>; 'pamela.larson@gmail.com' <pamela.larson@gmail.com>; 'wilson5406@cox.net' <wilson5406@cox.net>

Subject: Safety Vest Sizing

In reviewing and finalizing the vest order, I am wondering if consideration was given to winter wear of these vests as well as summer wear. Since coats are apt to be worn during the George Washington Day Parade event and other winter events, would one size larger than a normal shirt size be needed in such cases. I spoke with a DX Engineering rep and he did not know whether the vests run as sized, larger or smaller. His only idea was to buy two vests as some of his outdoor construction contractor friends do. If you would like to reconsider and revise your ordered vest size, please send me a note. See vest orders below. I will order the vests tomorrow.

73
Don

Safety Vest Orders
Larry D Walker XXL
Chris Sullivan KJ4QEG XXXL
Mark Bonanno XL
Jack W Parker Jr XL
Rick Bunn XXXL
Ryan Stinebiser M
Sean Gallagher XXL
Mark Bonanno XXL
Richard Morani XL
Rich Adamy XL
Pamela Larson M
William Wilson XXL

ARES

A while back I mentioned that there is very little training for ARES volunteers, but a commitment to learn the basics and be available for practice drills, public service events and, of course, when we have an emergency.

I checked my FEMA transcript a while back and thought I have credit for the core classes IS0100, IS0200, IS0700 and IS0800. All have to do with the organization of Incident command. In the last 10 years these classes have been enlarged to have much more content based on FEMA's lessons learned.

I still recommend that all volunteers take the MINIMUM of IS0100 and IS0200. These are required to work in either an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or at a Red Cross Shelter.

Each one will take a few hours of your time but well worth it to see how we as ARES volunteers fit into the organizational structure.

Now for the quiz:" Under what organizational block would ARES fit in and how might we aid in the communications structure of a major event? You can send you your response with a copy of your IS0100 certificate.

Field Day was a success! Why am I bring it up in ARES context? Because it is a very real event to prepare for a major emergency. There are several scenarios where we may have to set up in a field with HF radio. Wide spread weather disasters (I'm in Cape Coral, FL) Not as common in Northern VA, but good for us to practice. You may not always be in a zone where weather is benign. Working HF on the receiving end is as important as those in a disaster zone.

Turn out was a bit thin, but many new members did come out to operate.

It's important to remember that when those who want to restrict our antennas or take our RF spectrum attack us, our support of emergency services and public service events is a big tool for us in keeping the commercial frequency raiders at bay. I have heard many hams use that as a reason to protect our need for putting up antennas and for keeping our frequencies, but these same hams when pressed are happy to tell me that they don't have the time, training or desire to join ARES. So, these hams are willing to let other pay the bill

At the last meeting we talked about some work done on the trailer. On Field Day we found that the floor is rotting, so that will be our next effort.

The trailer now has the following equipment installed

Radio Shack 2096 scanner (we need to get something a little newer)
Alinco DR-235 – 220MHz FM
Alinco DR-06T with built in TNC (6 meter FM/Packet and APRS)
Kenwood TM D-710A x 2 (2m/70cm FM / Packet and APRS)
ICOM IC-706MKIIG with LDG Tuner HF to 70cm all mode (worked well on Field Day)
ICOM ID-1 1.2GHz D-Star and FM
ICOM IC-2820 – 2m/70cm D-Star/FM

The Generac Generator which was overhauled did not want to work on Field Day, but the club's Honda was magnificent.

Work will continue on the trailer whether or not it is used on the Marine Corps Marathon.

MARINE CORPS MARATHON

This event is kind of short notice. The event needs about 135 operators and all most operators need is a dual band HF and batteries. If you can volunteer, go to MCMHAM.ORG and MARINEMARATHON.COM and sign up under HAM VOLUNTEER. This needs to be done soon due to security requirements. There are many repeaters along the course so if you have a good antenna and about 8 hours' worth of batteries you'll have what you need. You will get more info if you volunteer.

ELMER'S INPUTS

I have been asked to prepare a tech talk on Go Kits. A few short items that come to mind.

1 – What is a GO KIT? – It is a collection of needed equipment that you can assemble quickly when you need to leave your home QTH /station and go portable.

2 – What should be in your GO KIT? – Depends on what you need to accomplish and how long you need to be portable.

A – If you are going out for a few hours to support the Washington's Birthday parade or going to a hamfest. Then all you need is your HT, spare batteries, maybe a better than 'rubber duck' antenna.

B – If you are going out for something like the Marine Corps Marathon, the Tour de Cure bike runs, or something where you will be out on a trail or racecourse for most of a day, still VHF/UHF, your kit may need to include a better battery source to last all day, you may want either an amplifier for your HT or a mobile radio. You may also need a mobile antenna or a j-pole you can hang on a pole or in a tree.

C – Summits on the Air, Parks on the Air, Field Day - Then you expand your go kit to cover HF. More power, larger antennas.

Another important aspect of go kits is the NON-RADIO side. Table, chair, shelter of some kind if needed. If you are supporting something like the Marine Corps Marathon, get an idea of whether you need to carry your gear in or if you can have your vehicle nearby. Even those this is a VHF/UHF operation you still want to be sure your prepared.

Just a few high points.

73 Rick
N4ASX

Hamfests –

The spread of COVID-19 (AKA Corona Virus) has put a major damper on hamfests for 2020 and early 2021. However, with people getting vaccinated, there are more hamfests showing up on the calendar. Let's hope this continues.

The Shenandoah Valley ARC has confirmed on their website that the Berryville hamfest will be happening on August 1, 2021. Gates open at 6 AM, breakfast starts at 7 AM and the famous barbecue lunch starts at 11 AM. SVARC does ask you please wear a mask. Here is the link for the hamfest: <https://svarc.us/hamfest/>

The Tidewater Hamfest (a.k.a. VA Beach) is returning this year on September 11 and 12. It will be held in a new location at The Ambassador Club in Portsmouth. The address is 364 Peninsula Avenue in Portsmouth. Here is the link: <http://virginiabeachhamfest.com/>

Training –

With our last class in the books, time to start planning for the next one. Our next class is scheduled to start in early October and end in early December. If you know of someone who has always wanted to become a ham radio operator, send them our way.

We have been hearing some of them on the air. Be sure to welcome them to ham radio.

Contests –

- July 10 and 11 – IARU HF World Championship. Exchange is RST and ITU Zone number. We are in ITU zone 8.
- July 17 and 18 – North American QSO Party, RTTY. Exchange is name and state.

- July 17 and 18 – CQ Worldwide VHF Contest. 6 and 2 meters. Exchange is 4-character grid square.
- July 31 and August 1 – Missouri QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- August 7 and 8 – ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest. All bands above 222 MHz. Exchange is 6-character grid square.
- August 7 and 8 – North American QSO Party – CW. Exchange is name and state.
- August 14 – Kentucky State Parks on the Air. Exchange is state.
- August 14 and 15 – Maryland/DC QSO Party. Exchange is entry class and state. Most of us operating from home will be a “standard” station.
- August 21 and 22 – North American QSO Party – SSB. Exchange is name and state.

very Sunday evening at 8 PM local time, the K1USN Radio Club sponsors the “Slow Speed Contest.” The exchange is similar to a QSO. See the rules here: <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>.

Every Tuesday at 0000 (8 PM EDT Monday for us) is the Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest. Exchange is RS and age group (OM, YL, Youth YL or Youth). Here are the rules: <https://wwsac.com/rules.html>

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 StateQSOParty.com.

Repeaters –

The club repeaters are all up and running. The DSTAR repeaters are seeing a lot of activity. We have been linking the 70 cm repeater to Reflector 001C, the world-wide reflector and the 23 cm repeater to Reflector 030C, another busy reflector. If you want to link to another reflector, be sure to unlink the repeater first and then link to the reflector of your choice. All we ask is you unlink the reflector you were listening on when you are finished listening.

The DMR side is working normally with access to the DMR servers. If you use the DMRVA codeplugs, they have updated codeplugs on their website with some of the new DMR repeaters. The codeplugs include more than just the DMRVA system repeaters. Their website is <http://www.dmrva.org/>

DMRVA has announced on their website they will be partnering with the Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Service (HEARS). HEARS operates linked repeaters primarily located in Southwest Virginia, North and South Carolina. New talkgroups will be added to the DMRVA system and at least one talkgroup will be deleted. We will have the details as soon as we see them.

In case you missed it, N8IK sent out a “Handy Intro Guide to DMR.” It does a great job explaining some of the terms you hear about DMR.

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.

Ian, N8IK, has started a Wednesday night DSTAR net on the 145.380 MHz repeater at 8 PM. We have linked the repeater to Reflector 62B so members and former members outside the local area can join in. Some time ago, I asked the folks who maintain the lists of DSTAR reflectors to create a Virginia perma-link reflector. Many other states have them. Be sure to put Reflector 62B in your DSTAR programming.

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

73, Rich, KA4GFY