

ARC-SHORTS

NOVEMBER 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 meeting will be on ZOOM on NOVEMBER 12th, this is our annual business meeting. We need to elect officers and directors for next year, and do all the club's annual business. In addition, this is a great time for the members to tell the new leadership what they want the club to do. This is a MEMBERSHIP only meeting, If you have not paid your dues then you should take care of that prior to the ZOOM meeting so your votes count.

The current leadership has a list of nominations, but any member can make a nomination for any position.

Last Meeting

ARC Meeting Minutes_10082021
October 08, 2021

Tim Duffy, K3LR of DX Engineering briefed us Antennas.

- They convert RF power to its feed point into electromagnetic radiation.
- Intercepts energy from a passing electromagnetic radiation, which then appears as RF voltage across the antenna's feed point.
- Any conductor, that can intercept an RF field can be an antenna.

Some important Antenna Parameters are:

Directivity or Gain

- Is the ratio of the power radiated by an antenna in its direction of maximum radiation to the power radiated by a reference antenna in the same direction.
- Is measured in dBi (dB reference to an isotropic antenna) or dBd (dB reference to a half wavelength dipole)

Presidents Corner

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

This is notice that the ARC Board of Directors will conduct the scheduled Annual Membership Business meeting via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on November 12th, 2021. Exclusive Zoom link invitations to the meeting will be sent only to Club members that are current with dues, in accordance with ARC Bylaws by November 5th, 2021. If you are a member current with dues and have not received an invitation to the meeting by November 5th, please contact the ARC Treasurer at treasurer@w4hfh.org for immediate resolution.

The Club Business meeting agenda will include:

- Report of club highlights during 2021.

- Annual Budget for 2022. A presentation, discussion, and membership vote will be conducted on the 2022 Annual Budget. A copy of the 2022 Budget will be forwarded to members with the Zoom invitation.

- Bylaws Review. A discussion of items from members regarding the Bylaws review will be conducted. A copy of the existing Bylaws will be forwarded with the Zoom invitation to the business meeting.

- Strategic Planning Document Proposal. Comments will be solicited on a proposal to establish a Strategic Planning working group. See attached ARRL Strategic Planning Document

- Election of ARC board directors members. At the request of the ARC Board of Directors, a slate of nominees for ARC 2022 Board of Directors has been prepared by the ARC Nominating Committee and are listed below. This is a list of those who have already volunteered and are qualified for the offices listed. However, any member of the Club in good standing may nominate themselves, or be nominated by another Club member any time prior to November 5th. Nominations may be sent to president@w4hfh.org who will forward them to the Nominating Committee chairman. Time will be provided, prior to the start of the voting process for the candidates to make a short statements regarding their qualifications, if more than one candidate exists for an office. If you have questions about the duties of Board members, contact any of the serving Board members regarding their duties. The Nomination Committee has submitted the following slate of candidates for the ARC Board officers for 2022:
 - o President: Richard Morani
 - o Vice President: Sean Gallagher
 - o Secretary: Carol Myers
 - o Treasurer: Don Lewis
 - o Board Member: Ian Keith (Club Continuity)
 - o Board Member: Pamela Larson (At Large Board Member, duties as assigned)
 - o Board Member: Ed Bradshaw (At Large Board Member, duties as assigned)
 - o Chairman, Membership Committee: Jack Parker

- Other business as proposed by the Board, or raised by the members at the meeting.

The Corporation's Bylaws, and Bylaws may be viewed at: <https://w4hfh.org/about/by-laws-of-the-alexandria-radio-club-inc/>

The October 8th monthly featured Antennas by Tim Duffy (K3LR) CEO of DX Engineering. Tim began by describing some antenna basics, including important antenna parameters, and antennas field strengths.

He went on to cover, dipoles, Double Zepp antennas, verticals and loop antennas. Included in Tim's discussion were an 8-element 10-meter Yagi and a 2-element 40-meter Moxon under construction by his team at K3LR. Tim was named Chief Executive Officer of DX Engineering effective January 1, 2020. Licensed in 1972, he is very active on the HF bands. K3LR enjoys hosting multi multi DX radio contest events. Tim likes to help bring new people into the hobby by mentoring them in the fun of amateur radio. Tim is president of his local ham club, the Mercer County Amateur Radio Club. He is active in RACES, ACS and ARES. Tim is a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame and was on Team USA for the World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) five times. Tim is the founder and chairman of Contest University (CTU). He is chairman of the World-Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF). Tim is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University. Tim is the recipient of the 2015 Amateur of the Year Award presented by the Dayton Hamvention® Awards Committee and the 2016 YASME Excellence Award.

We continue our interest in Tech-talks, the Alexandria Radio Club board made a decision to schedule Tech-talks monthly on the 4th Friday of each month. The last Tech-Talk on "Digital Modes" by Ed Bradshaw (W4EDF) was conducted on October 29th. The next Tech-talk will be on November 19th; Ian Keith, (N8IK) will discuss "FT-8 Advanced Techniques." Tech-talks topics resulted from a club survey conducted this past spring with club members. 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. These sessions also follow up on ideas from club members desiring to build on their knowledge of ham radio. Thusly, 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.

Most ARES Safety vests were delivered during Field Day weekend for those who attended. The remaining vests are being held pending delivery. Club polo shirts have also arrived and were made available at delivery points, the remaining shirts are pending delivery. If you have purchased a shirt, please let me know your availability for pickup.

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 Aug 9, 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
- 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, Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) 2021 – Howard

Cunningham

- October 8th – ZOOM MEETING, DX Engineering, Tim Duffy (K3LR)
- October 31st – (CANCELED) MARINE CORPS MARATHON

YOU ARE HERE!

- 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

ARES

There is a great deal of discussion about the future of Amateur Radio support in Emergency Services. ARES has been trying to adapt to the new AUXCOMM / Homeland Security / FEMA constructs.

Our first approach was to ask that ARES volunteers complete FEMA IS-100, which is required to support an EOC, be on site during an incident and when you support a shelter. In addition IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800 are recommended. The point of these courses is to know how Emergency Services are managed at all levels. While these are important classes they do NOT tell us how we provide communications in an emergency, it does however give us a framework to adapt our efforts to support the organizational structure.

There are two interesting documents out by Homeland Security AUXFOG (Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide) and NIFOG 2.0 (National Interoperability Field Operations Guide). Both will be attached to this newsletter.

Lots of interesting points. Some of the amateur frequencies may not be OFFICIAL and I'm sure it will change

Not too long ago an AUXCOMM class was held in the area and I was not able to attend. IS100,200,700 and 800 are required to attend and it's a two-day affair. What is it and what's it do to and for us?

It seems that other organizations view ARES and ARES operators as not very cooperative. We are not familiar with the Emergency Management and we come in telling the professionals that their multi-million-dollar communications systems will fail and that we amateurs with our few hundred dollars in technology are here to save the day. Like cowboys we are NOT part of the organization. As a side note. I have NOT SEEN this in Alexandria in my 15 years as EC.

A few changes are evident. One is that when I started my volunteering with ARES (1978) we were told that we come as a package. We bring our communications capability and our expertise with our gear part of the package. More recently, we have been told by ARRL, we should be more than willing to use any communications system we are asked to use. Not a problem if we are trained and licensed to operate on those systems. Another point that is made is that we are either volunteers or not. Which means, if you are asked to do something not communications, you're expected to do that function. BE VERY CAREFUL with this. If the EOC manager asks you to do something not communications, then do it if you can, but while you're doing this other function, you're as a link to the EOC via your network is missing in action. Politely remind that person that you're happy to help out but that someone should be on the radio. In the past we had that happen with the Red Cross in Alexandria. They had an annual WATERFRONT FESTIVAL and they assumed that amateur radio operators were also RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS and would ask amateur radio operators to help with supplies, gate functions, and other functions. As you can imagine, we tried to explain that we were not Red Cross volunteers and were there to

provide communications for the Red Cross and that if a radio operator was carrying boxes, he or she was NOT on the radio network. We must remember what our primary mission is.

I have some problem with the training requirements of AUXCOMM, but I am working to meet those requirements as time allows. I would ask all ARES volunteers to look at the AUXFOG and NIFOG. Should there be an EMERGENCY or a DISASTER, we will be needed and we DO provide a valuable and needed communications resource.

A last minute change to AUXCOMM – IS100, 200, 700 and 800 are now required to work in an EOC.

ACTIVITIES (Hamfests, Contests, Training, Repeaters) by Rich (KA4GFY)

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 Mason-Dixon Hamfest will be held October 23 at the Army National Armory in Westminster, MD. Hours are from 7 Am to 12 PM. Here is the link:

<https://k3pzn.net/mason-dixon-hamfest/>

It looks like the Mason-Dixon Hamfest is end of hamfest season for us in this area. However, 2022 is not far off. The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club hold their hamfest in late January and the Richmond Frostfest in early February.

Training –

With our last class in the books, time to start planning for the next one. Our next class is scheduled to start October 5 and end December 7. That leaves everybody enough time to get their new amateur radio equipment for Christmas. If you know of someone who has always wanted to become a ham radio operator, send them to our website to sign up for the class.

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

Contests -

- October 9 and 10 – Nevada QSO Party. RST and ARRL section.
- October 9 and 10 – Arizona QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

- October 9 and 10 – Pennsylvania QSO Party. Exchange is serial number and ARRL section.
- October 9 and 10 – South Dakota QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- October 16 and 17 – New York QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- October 17 and 18 – Illinois QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- October 18 through 22 – ARRL School Club Roundup. Exchange is RST and class (Individual, Club, School).
- October 24- North American Sprint, SSB. Exchange is other station's call, your call, serial number, your name, your state.
- October 30 and 31 – CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB. Exchange is RS and CQ Zone. We are in zone 5.
- November 6 through 8 – ARRL Sweepstakes – CW – Exchange is other station's callsign serial number, class, your callsign, check (year you were 1st licensed), ARRL section.
- November 20 through 23 - ARRL Sweepstakes – SSB – Exchange is other station's callsign serial number, class, your callsign, check (year you were 1st licensed), ARRL section.
- November 27 and 28 - CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW. Exchange is RST and CQ Zone. We are in zone 5.

Every 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](http://QSOParty.Groups.io/forum) and State.QSOParty.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 2 meter 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