

ARC-SHORTS

July 2022

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 8th at 7PM. A ZOOM meeting invite will be sent out soon. See the President's Corner for details on the next meeting. This meeting will be both IN PERSON and via ZOOM.

Last Meeting

Carol Myers, KN4LLL – Club Secretary

Date: June 10, 2022

Time: 1900 hours

Location: Hybrid Meeting: Via Zoom & In-Person at APD Community Room, Wheeler Lane

Presentation

- Topic: Field Day Preparations/Discussion
- Presenter: Sean Gallagher, K4KBK

Reports

Secretary: Carol KN4LL

- Briefed May 13, 2022 meeting minutes

Treasurer: Don KI4D

- Current Balance = \$10,708.18

Membership: Richard KW4UJ

- 93 paid; 9 Lifetime; Total of 102 members

Projects: Richard KW4UJ/Don KI4D

- ARES/RACES: No report
- History Project: Planned meeting did not happen; will be rescheduled

Repeaters: Rich KA4GFY

- Plan for GMRS Repeater to be installed at analog site when 2 Meter repeater is replaced; will use a mount from an abandoned tenant
- All repeaters are up and running; no issues reported
- AREDN Project – No report

Education/Training: Rich KA4GFY

- Plan to offer a class in the fall via Zoom so that 2 classes can run simultaneously

Trailer: Rich KA4GFY

- Trailer is at Rick's house for refurbishing doors; various upgrades are planned inside and out

Webmaster: Richard KW4UJ

- Survived a recent attack due to good security measures

Old Business

Storage Trailer search: Don KI4D

- Need a new strategy on storage trailer purchase

Discord Server: Jason WA6MPR

- Send Jason a request for access: WA6MPR@gmail.com

New Business

- Distributed certificates to participants of VA VSO party

Net Control

- 16 June: KA4GFY
- 23 June: KI4BXU
- 30 June: WA6MPR
- 07 July: KI4D

Announcements

- 50/50 raffle won by Sean K4KBK who donated winnings back to the club
- Field Day merchandise available for purchase during the meeting and at Field Day
- Next month's meeting will be a hybrid in-person/online

ADJOURNMENT: 2100 hours

Attendance (20)

Name	Call Sign	Position
Richard	KW4UJ	President
Sean	K4KBK	Vice President
Don	KI4D	Treasurer

Rich	KA4GFY	Training Coordinator
Carol	KN4LLL	Secretary
Robert	KO4ZIK	
Ted	W9TCE	
Jason	WA6MPR	
Bryan	WD4ADF	
Louis	KO4QVB	
Ryan	KO4EBY	
Jay	KR3W	
Wilson	KM4KLL	
Jack	KE7VQV	
Harry	N4CWP	Via Zoom
Andy	WV8AA	Via Zoom
Brian	KE4WGI	Via Zoom
Corey	KN4YZY	Via Zoom
Erik	KI4BXU	Via Zoom
Todd	KO4IJH	Via Zoom

Presidents Corner

Richard, KW4UJ

ARES

The biggest ARES event of the year, HOPEFULLY, is Field Day. The club's Field Day was a great success. While contacts were down, conditions were not good for anyone, so we will see what happens when the scores are published.

I think our primary goals were all accomplished:

1 – Get more of our club members out and participating.

YES! WE DID, Nice to see new members participating. Want to thank Alex KO4ZCM for joining the club and jumping in to make contacts. Ryan and Jason both did a great job as well as many others.

2 – Special thanks to our Chef Wilson KM4KLL. He worked for 24 hours plus to feed the crowd and the food was first class.

3 – In years past we had not had much luck with OSCARs. BUT this year Joe, KT3I bought out a station that would be the envy of any ham shack and made 9 satellite contacts on many different birds. Very impressive.

4 – Every time I looked around all the stations were in operation. Thanks to the band captains and operators for keeping us going.

5 – We had so many of our members doing great things that we will recognize them at the December party.

Field Day is both a contest and an emergency exercise. Without it we would not be prepared for a REAL emergency! It is also a chance for us to show what we can do for our community.

Part of this year's FD exercise was to activate the Alexandria EOC. Bob Crumley and I went up to the EOC and checked all the modes and radios. All looks good.

CLUB TRAILER

The club comm trailer had a bit of work done to it prior to field day, but we still have a few things to do to keep it in good shape.

When the weather gets cooler (maybe September) we will make some changes

- 1 – Add a coating to the roof to keep the rain and snow out.
- 2 – Fix the solar panels on the roof
- 3 – Add a ground bus to all of the radios
- 4 – Add the Tarheel II antenna mount for HF
- 5 – Add a 440MHz repeater antenna and 900MHz antenna
- 6 – Improve storage for cables and other items
- 7 – Look for two newer laptops
- 8 – As laptops no longer have RS-232 ports add USB adapters.

I'm sure there are other items.

STORAGE.

We need to find a place to store our gear that is safe and provides access. A second trailer or a storage container are both considerations. The issue is a LOCATION for either solution.

MARINE CORPS MARATHON

Looks like the MCM will be on this year as COVID becomes less of a risk. This is THE BIGGEST public service event of the year for Amateur Radio. It is also the most public. You many do not see amateur radio on the news but those who run the race and those federal, state and local agencies that support the race DO SEE US. They need about 135 volunteers, and you can volunteer for positions on the racecourse and all you need is a 2-meter HT or mobile. This includes mile markers, water stops, food stops. If you want to shadow someone, there are zone commanders, medical personnel etc. If you have digital gear and D-Star voice, there are 10 Aid Stations where we need to pass medical patient traffic.

DATE: October 30th.

How to volunteer: Go first to WWW.MarineMarathon.com
Go to the HAM RADIO signup and enter the information.

NEXT: go to the MCMHAMS website and fill in more details. If you have a particular spot you want to work, limitations on what you can do, need to leave the course before the end of the race. This is the site that you get to enter that information. This is also where they ask you about your vehicle, equipment, and experience. The leadership committee will make assignments about three weeks prior to the MCM and let you know. Due to security concerns, you will need to check in on Race Day prior to 5AM (this may change) at a particular location. You will get your course pass, your ham radio credentials, a vest and lunch. As all the ham radio folks are volunteers, be patient. **DO NOT ASK THEM TO PROGRAM YOUR RADIO.** The frequency plan will be sent with your assignment. Should you volunteer, and if for any reason you cannot make it on race day, **PLEASE** call the point of contact and advise them. **NO SHOWS** reflect **BADLY** on our hobby, our club and make it difficult to cover critical assignments.

Call Rick, N4ASX, if you have any questions on the MCM.

REPLACEMENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For the last 5 years I have been retired and hoped to spend more time with ARES and club activities, **BUT** other things have taken priority. I spend about 4 months a year in Florida making sure my mother-in-law is doing well. This time away from Alexandria makes my continuing to act as the Alexandria ARES Emergency Coordinator. Alexandria needs an EC that is available and trained.

I will step down as EC after almost 20 years effective December 31, 2022. To be the EC one needs to have been an active ARES volunteer and earned LEVEL III in the Task Book. This can be done by anyone in the time remaining. I will be submitting my resignation to the Section Emergency Coordinator

Another issue is ARCSHORTS. Again with 1/3 of my time in Florida, I have missed a few meetings and someone who is more in touch day to day needs to take over the newsletter. Again, I intend to pass the ARCSHORTS duties to someone at the beginning of next year.

73 Rick
N4ASX

ELMER'S INPUTS

The importance of **SAFETY**. Field Day being in a public park presented us with some safety issues. Generators, possible adverse weather, antennas, and feedlines that are easy to snag or trip on and people who have no idea what we are doing wondering into all of the wires we need to operate. At some point in the evening, some of us must have sounded less than friendly with regard to kids and others wondering through the site. But, we would have had far more trouble if someone had been hurt, or received an RF burn. Thanks to all for being vigilant.

Activities and Events - Rich KA4GFY

Hamfests –

The Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club's Berryville Hamfest is on August 7 at the Clarke County Fairgrounds. It's right off Rte 7 in Berryville. The Ruritans chicken and beef barbeque is well worth the trip. Talk-in on the SVARC 146.820 MHz repeater (PL 146.2 Hz). Here is the link: <https://berryvillehamfest.com/>

The Tidewater Hamfest and Swapmeet is August 16 at the Ambassador Club of Portsmouth, 364 Peninsula Avenue in Portsmouth. Talk-in is on the 146.850 MHz repeater (PL 100 Hz). Here is the link: <http://viriniabeachhamfest.com/>

Training –

Our next Technician and General classes are scheduled to start about October 4 and end December 6, 2022. Some of our visitors at Field Day expressed interest in becoming hams themselves and I have been receiving a few inquiries about our next class. If you know of anyone who has always wanted to become a ham, but hasn't known how, send them our way. If you are a Technician looking to upgrade or know a Technician looking to upgrade, let us know. We have been teaching both classes via Zoom and it is working very well.

Contests –

I will have the details of our Field Day score at the meeting.

- July 9 and 10 – IARU HF World Championship. Exchange is RST and ITU zone. We are in ITU zone 8.
- July 16 and 17 – North American QSO Party, RTTY. Exchange is name and state.
- July 16 and 17 - CQ Worldwide VHF Contest. 6 and 2 meters. Exchange is 4-character grid square.
- July 30 and 31 – Tennessee State Parks on the Air. Exchange is state.
- August 6 and 7 – North American QSO Party – CW. Exchange is name and state.
- August 6 and 7 – ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest. Exchange is 6-character grid square.
- August 13 – Kentucky State Parks on the Air. Exchange is state.

- August 13 and 14 – Exchange is entry class and state (most of us operating from home will be a “standard” station).
- August 20 and 21 – North American QSO Party - SSB. Exchange is name and state.
- August 27 through 29. Hawaii QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- August 27 and 28 – Kansas QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

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](http://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 2-meter repeater to Reflector 062C for Virginia and Maryland communications, and the 70cm Reflector 030C, for long-range communications and the 23cm voice repeater to Reflector 025B, the Northern Virginia local reflector or 001C, the world-wide 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.

Earlier this month, the 70cm repeater went offline for unknown reasons. A trip to the repeater was all that was needed and N8IK was able to re-boot the repeater and it was working normally.

The DMR side is working normally with access to the DMR servers. If you are new to DMR, DMRVA has codeplugs for some of the more common DMR radios on their website. Their website is <http://www.dmrva.org/> DMRVA

I recently purchased an Alinco DJ-5XT handheld for analog and DMR use. So far, it is performing very well. I will do a quick review in a later ARC Shorts.

The Alexandria Radio Club has one of the only 23 cm analog repeaters in the area. Give it a try on your IC-9700.

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. The Wednesday night net is starting to pick up some momentum. We link the repeater to Reflector 62B at net time 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