

ARC-SHORTS

May 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 May 13th 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

Our last meeting was on was Bob be Bob, AK6R of Palomar Engineering his discussion was on various antennas that can be used in confined spaces including the Endfedz and other items designed by his company that help us with various antenna problems. He also covered the fundamentals of off center fed antennas.

Meeting Minutes – Carol Myers KN4LLL

Date: Apr 08, 2022
Time: 1905 hours
Location: Zoom - Virtual

Presentation

- Topic: End-Fed Antennas
- Presenter: Bob Brehm, AK6R; <https://palomar-engineers.com>

Reports

Secretary: Carol KN4LL

- Reviewed the Mar 11, 2022 meeting minutes

Treasurer: Don KI4D

- Current Balance = \$10,508.60

Membership: Richard KW4UJ

- 96 paid; 9 Lifetime; Total of 104 members

- 27 Not Renewed since 2020

Projects: Richard KW4UJ/Rick N4ASX/Don KI4D

- Tech Talks: nothing new
- ARES/RACES: nothing new; need volunteers for Field Day; Don suggested organizing a FD planning meeting
- History Project: nothing new; Don is arranging a meeting with Jim Wilson re club artifacts

Repeaters: Ian N8IK/Rich KA4GFY/Joe KT3I

- Analog and digital are humming along
- A donated repeater is being installed at the repeater site for CERT folks to use; Frequency 462.625 with 123.0 subaudible tone
- AREDN Project – nothing new to report; Fire station 208 is slated to move to Landmark Mall close to the new hospital which is now under construction

Education/Training: Rich KA4GFY

- Technician & General License Classes are underway
- Exam scheduled for May 3rd at the Police Station Community Room at 7:00pm

Trailer: Rich KA4GFY

- Rich will get with Rick to organize a repair/cleanup party

Webmaster: Ian N8IK

- Nothing new to report

Old Business

Storage Trailer search: Don KI4D

- Don had no luck with finding a single axle 6 x 12 trailer at sites suggested during previous meeting
- Will pursue looking into the original trailer proposal located in Fayetteville NC for \$2,500

New Business

Discord Server: Jason WA6MPR

- Jason has created a personal Discord account for exchanging information and knowledge among club members
- Good resource for new hams
- Can move to a Club Discord account down the road if enough interest

Net Control

- 14 Apr: KA4GFY
- 21 Apr: N8IK
- 28 Apr: WA6MPR
- 05 May: N4ASX

- 12 May: KI4D

Announcements

- Hamvention in Dayton OH, 3rd Weekend in May; Rich KA4GFY will be purchasing tickets
- Next month's meeting will be a hybrid in-person/online

ADJOURNMENT: 2105 hours

Attendance (30)

Name	Call Sign	Position
Bob	AK6R	Guest Presenter
Sean	K4KBK	Vice President
Gary	KC5QCN	
Rich	KA4GFY	Training Coordinator
Jack	W2JWP	
Jack	KE7VOU	
Don	KI4D	Treasurer
Carol	KN4LLL	Secretary
Ryan	KO4EBY	
Richard	KW4UJ	President
Rick	N4ASX	ARES Coordinator
Ted	N4JOG	
Ian	N8IK	Director
Jason	WA6MPR	
Ted	W9TCE	
Dennis	KD4WGN	
Harry Jones		
Brian	KE4WGI	
Bob	KO4ZIK	
Andy	WV8AA	
Joe	KT3I	
Thomas Kirby	KJ4FUU	
Jeremy	KO4VFO	
Jim	N8OQ	
Larry	K4LDW	
Norman	KK4VWK	
Pamela	KO4EQU	
Steve	KC2PLV	
Wilson	KM4KLL	
Brum		

Presidents Corner

After two long years the COVID-19 pandemic is losing its grip on the area and allowing us to return to some semblance of a normal pre pandemic life. The club has received word that we are now welcome back to the Alexandria Police Department Community room for our monthly meetings so we will be

doing a hybrid meeting with in person and Zoom participation this month. Our speaker will be Randy Foltz (K7TQ) with a presentation on RTTY Contesting.

Later this month several of the club members will be making the trip to Ohio for the 70th Dayton Hamvention now located at the Greene County Fair Grounds and Expo Center in Xenia Ohio. We look forward to seeing the latest innovation in Ham radio, taking part in the forums and leaning what has happened new in the last 2 years. We also hope to meet up with old friends that we have not seen for 2 long years and to make new friends while at Hamvention.

Please stay safe and get on the air.

73

Richard

KW4UJ

ARES

The state ARES organization is collecting inputs from the organization to ensure that their databases and information on call lists is up to date. I have submitted my intent to stay on as EC. My issue is that I spend about a third of the year away from the area. If there is a LEVEL III qualified ARES volunteer who would like to take over the Emergency Coordinator Job, let me know.

I encourage all in the club to consider volunteering for ARES. Cost nothing but a little time and the commitment to help when there are drills, emergencies and public service events. Part of that commitment is to complete level 1 qualifications in the first year.

I have made an appointment with the new INOVA Hospital Emergency Manager to talk about the new hospital location and moving our equipment and antennas to the new Landmark location and to make arrangements for a place for ARES operators to operate for drills and real emergencies.

KDCA exercise – This year was a tabletop exercise, but Alexandria ARES did hold a brief net at 9AM on April 23rd. The net was short with only a few check ins.

Field Day is just 51 DAYS away. I hope all who can, will come out to participate.

1 – We have been granted free use of the Armistead Booth Park off of PICKET ST. The park has been renovated and we should have no problem with our antennas.

2 - We will start set up on June 25th (Saturday) at 10AM, Lunch at noon and contesting starts at 2PM. We work for 24 hours and clean up after 2PM Sunday.

3 – We will have 5 HF stations and 1 VHF station. We will run the 75-meter station out of the club trailer. Other stations will be under the pavilion.

4 – With a club as large as hours we will have to set up schedules to SHARE the operating time. Each station will have a signup sheet for two operators for two hours each. The station / band captain will keep continuity and be responsible for set up and take down of the station.

5 – While we are not a CONTEST CLUB, Our scores do reflect our ability to perform in an emergency situation.

6 – BONUS POINTS

100% emergency power 100 points PER TRANSMITTER.

Media Publicity – 100 points LOCAL Media.

Public Location – 100 points (done)

Public Information Table -100 points

Site visitation by an elected government official – 100 points

Site visitation by an agency representative – 100 points

Message to the Section Manager or Section Emergency Manager – We will use the WINLINK station in the trailer – 100 points

Message traffic – 10 points for each message up to 100 points.

Coping the ARRL W1AW special bulletin – We will ask all stations to attempt this. -100 points

Alternative power (batteries not included) for 5 QSOs – 100 points

Satellite QSO (satellite station does not count against our total transmitters) – 100 points

Educational Activity or hands on training activity – 100 points

Youth Bonus – 20 points per person up to 100 points. Each youth must participate in at least ONE QSO – I have invited the local Civil Air Patrol cadet squadron to join us. Please try to encourage them to make contacts.

Safety Officer – 100 Points (and a safe Field Day)

50 points for submission of the ARRL report using the app.

QSO Points

SSB – 1 point
CW – 2 points
Digital -2 points

If you want to help with the bonus points, let Rick N4ASX know.

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 may 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.

ELMER'S INPUTS

DMR or Digital Mobil Radio is a voice over digital modulation that allows signals to be passed through the internet over various TALK GROUPS. This is different the D-Star which can also be over the internet, but uses reflectors

DMR is a construct of MOTOROLA and is used by commercial interests in Europe. DMR radios are programmed with a CODE PLUG with TALK GROUPS. Most of us use the DMRVA.ORG code plug. Unlike D-Star where reflectors can be added when needed, the DMR

talk groups are limited to the programming of the DMR repeater. HOWEVER, if you have a hot spot which does not rely on over the air repeater access but is set up by you on your computer.

Talk Groups include Statewide, Alexandria Local, and many others.

The Alexandria Radio Club HAS a DMR repeater.

Rick Bunn N4ASX

Activities and Events

Rich KA4GFY

Hamfests –

The Maryland FM Association's Memorial Day Hamfest will be May 29 at the Howard County Fairgrounds. It's just off Rte 32 on Rte 144 in West Friendship, MD. Talk-in on the MFMA repeaters (146.760, 224.760 and 444.000 MHz all PL 107.2 Hz). Here is the link: <http://marylandfm.org/Hamfest.htm>

The Olde Virginia Hams hamfest returns to the Manassas Park Community Center on June 4. Talk-in on 146.970 repeater (PL 100.0 Hz). Here is the link: <https://w4ovh.net/tailgate/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest/>

Later in June is the Father's Day Hamfest at Arcadia, sponsored by the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club. The hamfest is located at the Arcadia Volunteer Fire Grounds, located at 16020 Carnival Avenue in Upperco, MD. Talk-in on BARC's 146.670 MHz repeater (PL 107.2 Hz). Here is the link: <https://w3ft.com/hamfest/>

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. Here is the link: <https://berryvillehamfest.com/>

Training –

We just completed our latest licensing class on May 3 with the exam for our class members and a few guests. Eleven people took exams and 10 walked out with either a new license or an upgraded license. There were 5 new Techs and 5 new Generals.

The bad news is FCC has not processed any new licenses since April 18. Any license application requiring the \$35 fee is not being processed, even though the fee has been paid. Upgrades seem to be continuing since they do not require the fee. No telling when this will be corrected.

We have another class scheduled for the Fall and we are already receiving inquiries about the next class. A few members from the recent Tech class have stated they will be back for the General class.

Contests -

- May 14 and 15- Canadian Prairies QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- May 21 and 22 – Arkansas QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- May 28 and 29 – CQ WW WPX CW. Exchange is RST and serial number.
- June 4 and 5 – Kentucky QSO Party – Exchange is RST and state.
- June 4 and 5 – ARRL International Digital Contest. Exchange is 4-character grid square.
- June 11 through 13 – ARRL June VHF Contest. Exchange is 4-character grid square. All bands 50 MHz and above.

Don't forget the Armed Forces Cross Band Test on May 14, 2022. This is an opportunity to work MARS stations throughout the country. WAR at the Pentagon, AIR at Andrews Air Force Base and NSS at the US Naval Academy are scheduled to be on. The MARS stations listen on amateur frequencies we listen for them on MARS frequencies just outside the ham bands. Many of the military ops are hams themselves, so they are pretty good about QSLing, and they have some really neat QSL cards.

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 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 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.

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](#)

The Alexandria 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