



# ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club  
February 2023

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## Member News

### New Members Meet at Dinner



Joe Izaguirre (KO4QQX) hosts a new members dinner on the second Monday of the month. Pictured (left) in January were (l.-r.) Joe, José Cruz, new member Sandra Cruz-Pol (KQ4BDG), Ian Keith (N8IK), and President Don Lewis (KI4D). Don says, “The goal is to welcome new Hams, assign an Elmer, show a basic ham set-up, have them feel welcomed and get on the Air, and motivate recruitment of other friends and family.” At our last meeting (pictured right), Joe and Sandra presented Ian with a handsome Elmer Award for helping Sandra get on the air.

## Skywarn® Class

### [SKYWARN® - Basics \(Fairfax County, VA\)](#)

**Location:** Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management 4890

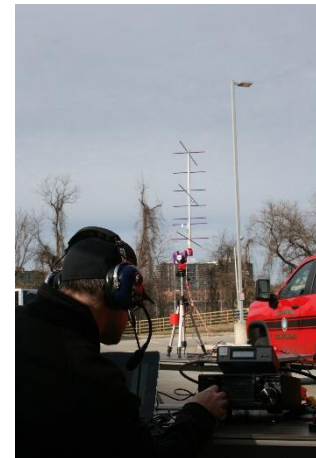
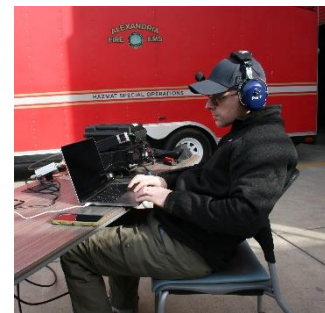
Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

**Date and time:** Thu., February 23, 2023, 6 PM – 8 PM EST.

### President's Corner – Don KI4D

I am delighted to report that Alexandria Radio Club has gotten off to an exciting start with club happenings in 2023.

The **Winter Field Day** (WFD) event completed on January 29th, 2023, was a glowing success in terms of what we accomplished, what we learned, and based on recognition by the City of Alexandria. The club had never before participated in WFD. With limited time to organize and limited hours of operation available, participants were satisfied that our main club and personal objectives were met. For the first time, club members were able to use their own “Go-boxes,” operating on battery power while simulating emergency communications with the club call sign, W4HFH. This was also our first time operating on HF at a City of Alexandria emergency response facility, Fire Station 210. I extend my thanks to all who participated to make WFD a club success. Also, I extend hearty congratulations to **Alex** (KO4ZMC) for his star performance as an HF station operator, and to **Joe** (KT3I) for his many, many contributions from start to finish that made the event a success.



**Alex (KO4ZMC), top, and Joe (KT3I) operate at Winter Field Day.**

Club Member Exercise Participants were:

Bob (KO4ZIK)	20m HF Operator w/Go Box
Erik (KI4BXU)	20m HF Operator w/Go-box
Jason (WA6MPR)	20m HF Operator w/Go-box
Alex (KO4ZMC)	40m HF Operator w/Go-box
Don (KI4D)	40m HF Operator w/Go-box
Joe (KT3I)	SATCOM Operator w/Go-box
Sean (K4KBK)	Participant/Club VP
Rick (N4ASX)	Participant/ARES Coordinator
Ian (N8IK)	Participant/Club Board
Jan (KB2LRX)	Participant/Club PIO
Andrew (KI4THF)	Participant

We learned a number things from this event including the idea that we need more club members who can deploy with their “Go-box” stations in case of future emergencies.

I am happy to report that **Bryan Pettigrew** (WD4ADF) has volunteered to be Network Control Coordinator and will do net control training for the club. His suggestion that the club use “W4HFH” as net control call sign was adopted.

In preparation for the George Washington Day Parade on February 20th and the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 4th, the Club trailer is undergoing some spruce up work that will be completed just in time. **Rick** (N4ASX) provides parade details below.

Please keep those ideas coming. I want to continue building consensus on how the club should move forward in 2023. I want my priorities to reflect your most important priorities for club development, operations and activities. Therefore, please give some thought to what you expect from your club and I want to know about your ideas on how we should proceed in the new year.

## **Next Meeting**

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, February 10, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

The meeting will feature a presentation from **Kristen Kucko** (KQ4ECP), of **Thomas Jefferson High School**, about the school’s ham radio club and the **TJREVERB CubeSat** that they designed and built.

## **Last Meeting**

The meeting featured a presentation by **Orv Beach** (W6BI) on AREDN. Orv is an “AREDN Ambassador” designated by the AREDN team in a new program to recognize people who are actively contributing to spreading the word about how hams can use our 21st century mesh networking technology to provide high-speed data communications when disasters strike.

## **ARES**

**Rick** (N4ASX)

## **G.W. Parade volunteers needed**

The Annual George Washington’s Birthday Parade will be held on **MONDAY FEBRUARY 20th**. We have been supporting this event for over 20 years. As always, we need about 12 to 20 volunteers to support this event.

**There are major changes this year. The parade will march up King Street to the Reviewing Stand near the King Street Metro Station.**

Details from their website: <http://washingtonbirthday.com/2023route>

ROUTE: Parade Start Point at Pendleton Street & N. Fayette Street. Proceed from the Start Point South on N. Fayette Street to King Street, then West (right) on King Street to Commonwealth Ave. (passing the Reviewing Stand at King Street), then right on Commonwealth Ave. to Cameron Street. Route maps are available on the website.

REVIEWING STAND: On King Street at intersection of Commonwealth Ave. facing King Street Gardens.

HANDICAPPED: Handicapped viewing area is across the street from the Reviewing Stand.

Handicapped parking will be at Jefferson Houston Elementary School.

Map of the course below:



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee  
**George Washington Birthday Parade**  
February 20, 2023  
1 p.m. parade start



The ARC TRAILER will be located at the START of the Parade at Pendleton St. On the west side of the intersection with Payne St.

The PARADE ROUTE will be south on N. Fayette to King St. on King St. the parade turns west and ends up at the Metro station where the parade ENDS at the Metro station. Key points will be:

Trailer, Net control and start of parade. This year we will run PACKET or WINLINK Peer to Peer traffic to send the changes to the order of march. Three operators will be needed, because the trailer gets a great deal of attention, any additional volunteers not assigned can act as ambassadors.

Reviewing Stand – Will need a packet / WINLINK station set up, a runner, and net operator (3 volunteers).

We will need operators to liaison with the Parade marshals. These may be CAP cadets. They are there to organize each division. When the parade steps off, any changes need to be taken to the trailer so the order of march can be edited and sent.

If there are only a few changes they can be sent over the air on the VHF net frequency. Long lists should be written down and handed to the operator at the trailer.

### **THREE TYPES OF CHANGES – Examples**

1 – CHANGE OF POSITION – UNIT XXX moved from DIVISION Y Position 12 to DIVISION Y (or Z) position 20A.

2 – ADDED – Add “name of unit” to DIVISION “X” Position “Y”.

3 – DROP – “Name of unit” Position “X”.

### **TIMELINE**

10:00 AM - All volunteers meet at the Nannie J. Lee center (Fire Training Center), at Jefferson Street and South Fayette Street, where the trailer is parked. Will hand out the latest material, make assignments, check gear, and CARPOOL to the course assignments.

11:00 AM – POLICE CLOSE THE ROADS – All should be in place.

12:30 PM – CHANGES to the parade order should be sent to the trailer.

1:00 PM – Parade steps off. The usual order is that military units are DIVISION 0. We do not normally have any changes to that Division.

DIVISION 1 is Dignitaries; again, they organize themselves and usually no changes.

Others like the Kena Temple unit, Scouts may or may not have an order.

I hope to have the planned Division order to hand out on parade day.

Our other function is eyes on the parade course. We will ask the police to keep an officer near the trailer and if there are any problems we can pass them to the police.

2-3 PM Parade Ends – ALL units and spectators will be trying to get out of Old Town. The trailer group and some others will move the trailer back to its parking space and secure it. We will all head to Glory Days for a hot wash and late lunch.

## FREQUENCY PLAN

We will use the 147.315 SIMPLEX as our primary FM voice frequency. If we cannot establish simplex, we will go to the 146.655 Repeater (141.3 PL). PACKET / APRS will be on 145.03 MHz (D-Star backup).

Trailer and Reviewing stand may want to establish a UHF Simplex.

If you have them, wear your club shirts and hats.

If you can volunteer, send me an E-Mail at N4ASX@cox.net , let me know what assignments you would like.

73 Rick N4ASX

## **Activities and Events - Rich KA4GFY**

**Training** – Our next class is scheduled for March 7 to May 9, 2023. Let me know if you know of anyone looking to become a ham.

**Hamfests** – The Page Valley ARC Mini Hamfest is scheduled for February 18, 2023 from 7 AM to 2 PM. Location is the Elkton VFW hall, 13958 Spotswood Trail in Elkton, VA. Talk-in on the 146.625 (PL 131.8 Hz) repeater. Here is the link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/pvarc/home>

The Vienna Wireless Society's Winterfest takes place on March 19, 2023 at Oakton High School from 8 AM to 2 PM. Note the new venue for this year. Here is the link to the hamfest: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/>. **Harry Jones** N4CWP has reserved three tables for us.

## **Contests –**

- February 11 and 12 – CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest. Exchange is RST and serial number.
- February 13 through 19 – ARRL School Club Roundup. Exchange is RST and class. Most of us will be "Individual."
- February 18 and 19 – ARRL International DX Contest, CW. Exchange is RST and state.
- February 25 and 26 – South Carolina QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- February 25 and 26 – North American QSO Party, RTTY. Exchange is name and state.
- March 4 and 5 – ARRL International DX Contest, SSB. Exchange is RST and state.
- March 11 and 12 – Oklahoma QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

- March 11 and 12 – Idaho QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- March 12 and 13 – Wisconsin QSO Party. Exchange is state.
- March 18 and 19 – Virginia QSO Party. Exchange is serial number and county/city.
- March 25 and 26 – CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB. Exchange is RS and serial number.

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 (7 PM EST 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.

## **Repeaters - Rich KA4GFY**

### **PLEASE USE OUR REPEATERS**

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.

The new Motorola Quantar repeater and newer antenna have been online for a couple of months. We are getting good reports. One member reported being able to access the repeater from the La Plata, MD area.

The DSTAR repeaters continue to see a lot of activity. We have been linking the 2-meter repeater to Reflector 062C for Virginia and Maryland communications, the 70cm repeater to 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.

The Alexandria Radio Club has one of the only 23 cm analog repeaters in the area. Give it a try on your IC-9700, G-7, ID-1, or if you still have one, a T-81. It works quite well.

We also have one of the few 33 cm repeaters in the area. It has good coverage and can be accessed with a handheld in many of the same places as our 70 cm repeater. If you have an Alinco G-29, Motorola GTX or a Kenwood TK-981, give it a try. If you are curious about 33 cm, check out [kw902.com](http://kw902.com). This is the go-to website on everything about Kenwood 33 cm equipment. Another good source of 33 cm information is the San Diego 900 MHz Club at [SD900MHz.com](http://SD900MHz.com).

We have resumed the follow-on net on one of the other repeaters after the Thursday net on the 2-meter analog repeater on a rotating basis, 6 meter, 1.25 meter, and 70 cm repeaters. There has been discussion about trying the 33 cm and 23 cm repeaters as well. There isn't too much 33 cm equipment in the club, but several members have the ICOM 9700, so a 23 cm net is not too far-fetched.

Ian, N8IK, runs the 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

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Alexandria Radio Club mailing list

Home: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/alexandriaradioclub>

Help: <http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm>

Post: <mailto:AlexandriaRadioClub@mailman.qth.net>

This list hosted by: <http://www.qsl.net>

Please help support this email list: <http://www.qsl.net/donate.html>



An “Alexandria Radio Club Current Membership” Google Group has been established for internal club discussions by “active” club members. This is a private group established to promote internal club member communications among members of Alexandria Radio Club who are current with their club dues, and are therefore entitled to full membership privileges and benefits.

Invitations to join this list have been sent to “active” members, based on those current with 2022 club dues as reflected with the Club Treasurer. If you have paid club dues for 2022 and have not received an invitation to the Google Group, please send a note to Don Lewis KI4D so that the situation can be corrected soonest. A few email addresses have bounced.

## **Club Leadership**

### **Elected Officers for 2023\***

Don Lewis, KI4D—President  
Sean Gallagher, K4KBK—Vice President  
Carol Myers, KN4LLL—Secretary  
Erik Misavage, KI4BXU—Treasurer

### **Elected Board of Directors, At Large\***

Ian Keith, N8IK  
Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK  
Jason Palmer, WA6MPR

\* Voting members of the leadership group are the elected officers and elected directors.

### **Committee Chairmen**

Joe Izaguirre, KO4QQX—Membership  
Jan Maas, KB2LRX—Public Information  
Officer (PIO)  
Gary Sessums, KC5QCN—Club Metro  
Area Liaison

Rich Adamy, KA4GFY (Lifetime  
Member)  
Rick Bunn, N4ASX (Lifetime Member)  
Jim Stone, W4YUE  
Marshall DeBerry, KI4MWP (Lifetime  
Member)  
Tom Kirby, KJ4FUU  
Larry Walker, K4LDW  
Monica Wilson, KC2IAY  
Richard Morani, KW4UJ  
Ted Einersen, W9TCE

### **Advisory Group of Past Presidents & Officers**

Harry Jones, N4CWP (Lifetime Member)

Club Leadership Group members may be contacted using the following email addresses:

<mailto:president@[w4hfh.org](mailto:president@w4hfh.org)> president@[w4hfh.org](mailto:president@w4hfh.org)  
<mailto:vice-president@[w4hfh.org](mailto:vice-president@w4hfh.org)> vice-president@[w4hfh.org](mailto:vice-president@w4hfh.org)  
<mailto:treasurer@[w4hfh.org](mailto:treasurer@w4hfh.org)> treasurer@[w4hfh.org](mailto:treasurer@w4hfh.org)  
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