



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
April 2023

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Our trailer in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade
(Photo: Jill Kenyon)

Member News

Net Control Class

Congratulations to **Joe Porcelli** (KT3I), **Sandra Cruz-Pol** (KQ4BDG), **Jeffrey Cook** (KQ4CMA), and **Louis Mingo** (KO4QVB), the first graduates of the Net Control Class offered by **Bryan Pettigrew** (WD4ADF). Also, congrats and 73 to **Bjorn Nernudd** (KC3A00), the pioneer.

Bryan Pettigrew reports: We had a very successful inaugural Net Controller Training class and will offer this opportunity again in May! If you are interested in signing up for the next round of training, please send an email to WD4ADF at bryan.a.pettigrew@gmail.com. The number of students will be capped to a maximum of 6 students for the next round of training. And for our newest graduates, we look forward to you taking on net control duties for either the Wednesday DSTAR net or the Thursday evening 2m FM net!

Net control assignments: From this point forward for the 2m nets, we will assign a primary and alternate/back up net controller each week. In the event that the primary net control operator cannot take the net or experiences technical difficulties while conducting the net, the backup controller should be ready to take over as the NCS. Additionally, the backup controller should let the primary controller know they are standing by prior to the net starting at 2000.

Ideas for other nets: As your Net Control Coordinator, I am thinking of ideas to help increase our club engagement on the air! So if you have ideas on different types of nets we can conduct on our repeaters, please let me know! I am open to any and all suggestions!

Upcoming New Member Dinner

Joe Izaguirre (KO4QQZ) will host at his house, 7-9 PM, 8 May.

President's Corner

Don (KI4D)

Springtime is here again! Because spring comes with clearer skies, more sunlight, and warmer temperatures, springtime is excellent weather and it feels like a great time to get outside and enjoy ham radio even more. For those who love POTA and other portable operating it is a time to enjoy more time on the air and renew the enjoyment of the great outdoors.

One opportunity to enjoy outdoor ham activities has been extended by Vienna Wireless Society. **Vienna Wireless Society (VWS)** is inviting all hams to their **Spring Picnic & QRP To the Field** event on Saturday 22 April from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Sully Highlands Shelter on Rt. 28, near Dulles Airport. The address is 13808 Wall Rd., Herndon, VA 20171. The event will feature homebrew QRP radios and non-homebrew QRP radios. Bring your own. It will also feature a demonstration by our club member **Joe Porcelli (KT3I)** of his elaborate satellite ground station. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP at Operating@viennawireless.net so they can get a meal count. More information can be found on VWS's website.

The 2023 Virginia QSO Party was held during the weekend of 18-19 March 2023. The deadline for log submission is April 15th. Please don't forget to submit your log and include Alexandria Radio Club as your club if you are submitting a log. You can submit your logs to:

https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2023_VQP/2023_VQP_Log_Submittal.html.

Considering competition with other states for most logs submitted, it is helpful that if you have only one VA QSO Party contact, please submit your log and you will earn a nice Virginia QSO Party certificate.

I would like to express my personal gratitude to those who participated in the successes of the Silent Key (SK) ceremonies for **Doug Rose (AK4QY)** and **Lester Ravitz**

(N3LES). Their families have expressed their appreciation of the March club meeting moments of silence, and the club directed net Silent Key Ceremonies for them. I want to offer special thanks to our Coordinator for Silent Key Affairs, **Joe Izaguirre (KO4QQX)** for organizing the club’s response for these difficult and sad occasions. His initiatives in communicating with silent key families and his contributions to establishment of the directed net ceremonies were crucial to our successes.

A new Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) ham radio support organizer has been announced. **Scott Larimer (KN4RPA)** is taking over from Howard Cunningham (WD5DBC) the MCM ham support organizer for many years. Scott is an active member of the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club (RVARC) and he is the amateur radio Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the City of Fredericksburg, VA. He has supported multiple MCM events including all the smaller events on Quantico and he was net control lead for the MCM ham support in 2022.



Scott Larimer (KN4RPA)

The April 14th meeting of the Alexandria Radio Club will again feature **John Portune (W6NBC)**, via Zoom. This time John will present “Build a 10-meter Moxon Antenna.” This is a great project for new hams wanting to experience the coming peak of Sunspot Cycle 25. Experienced hams can also use this antenna for portable and Field Day operation. John is constantly coming up with new antenna ideas and has published over 25 articles in QST and other publications. John is also a frequent guest of other radio clubs with Zoom presentations, and at guest speaker at ham expos.



John Portune (W6NBC)

We would like to welcome **Scott Mc Clung (KC3VOZ)** as a new member to Alexandria Radio Club. Scott has already begun participating in our weekly nets and is studying for his General Class License. Scott does not live in the local area, so he may not be attending our in-person meetings or events. Welcome aboard Scott!

Meeting Format

Meeting Component	Estimated Time Duration (Min)	Time
Opening	5-10	7:00-7:10 p.m.
Featured Presentation w/questions	50	7:10-8:00 p.m.
Club Business	30	8:00- 8:30 p.m.
Ham Work Shop	30+	8:30 p.m. - Until

1Membership Meeting Format

Club meetings now have a timewise standardized format. The objective will be to keep discussions on track so that everything is covered in the time allowed. See figure1.

The April meeting Ham workshop will feature a discussion of Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) propagation by Don Lewis, KI4D.

If you have an idea for a “how-to” presentation or discussion for the monthly club Ham workshop, please send me a note and we will try to work it in.

Don Lewis (KI4D)

Next Meeting

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, April 14, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue. See **President’s Corner** for details.

Last Meeting

Date: March 10, 2023

Time: 1900 hours

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

Honored Silent Keys: **Lester Ravitz** (N3LES); **Douglas McLeod Rose** (AK4QY)

Gordon Miller (NQ4K) presented details about the Virginia QSO Party (March 18 and 19).

In the Ham Workshop, **Rick Bunn** (N4ASX) discussed ARES.



Elizabeth Bartosz (KK4WAD), widow of **Douglas Rose** (AK4QY), accepts a Silent Key memorial plaque from President **Don Lewis** (KI4D).



Gordon Miller (NQ4K) talks to the Club about the Virginia QSO Party.



The Club members at the March 10 meeting. (Photo courtesy of Gordon Miller [N4KJ])

ARES

Rick (N4ASX)

ARES Myths

As you know, if you read ARC-SHORTS, I have been trying to recruit ARES volunteers. I want to dispel some myths:

Myth 1 – You need to have experience. – **NO**. ARES does require some training, but it's very easy. The TASK BOOK tells you all you need to do.

Most of our volunteers are at LEVEL 1. Can be done in an hour or so. ONE FEMA class and signing up using the FSD-98. The FSD-98 tells me that what your capabilities are. So, when we have an event, the ARES Emergency Coordinator knows who to call and what you're able to provide.

Level II is known as the "Deployable" level. This is important if you want to operate out of shelters and the EOC.

Level III is the "Management" level. This is a lot of work. If you want to be an EC or AEC, then you need to work on this over time. These positions REQUIRE some experience.

Myth 2 – You need a BUNCH of equipment. – **NO.** A decent handheld and maybe add a good antenna and some source of power over a period.

Myth 3 – I need to be ON CALL 24/7/365 – **NO.** It's a volunteer group. While ARES would like to count on all the volunteers, this is not possible. What ARES is looking for is, some level of commitment to be available in a REAL emergency and, if you can, for various public service events.

Myth 4 – Training is difficult. – **NO.** Your technician or higher license and your knowledge of net operations is all you need as well as a willingness to support the mission.

The issue for ARES is are we able and willing to step up and support our communities when they need us? There are a great deal of people who think that amateur radio causes harm. We have those who would take our spectrum, we have HOAs that would restrict our antennas and we have those who believe that our hobby enables illegal activities. When World War I broke out, all amateur radio was shut down and did not get permission to restart until 1922. During World War II there were significant restrictions on amateur radio and as late as 9/11 there were suggestions that amateur radio was being used by spies and terrorists. These are some of the reasons that ARES is needed.

Upcoming Classes

[SKYWARN® - Basics \(Prince George's County, MD\)](#)

Location: Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management,
7915 Anchor Street Landover, MD 20785

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT

[SKYWARN® - Convection \(Prince George's County, MD\)](#)

Location: Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management,
7915 Anchor Street Landover, MD 20785

Date and Time: Monday, May 15, 2023, at 6:00 – 8:00 EDT

Marine Corps Marathon

As announced in **President's Corner**, we have a new lead for MCM this year. PLEASE consider volunteering for this MAJOR EVENT. We need about 135 operators.

73, Rick (N4ASX)

Activities and Events

Rich (KA4GFY)

Hamfests –

The Sussex Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo and Delaware State ARRL Convention takes place on April 15, 2023 at the Cheer Community Center, located at 20520 Sand Hill

Road in Georgetown, Delaware. Talk-in on the 147.090 MHz repeater (PL 156.7 Hz). Here is the link: <http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com/>

The Greene County VA ARC is sponsoring Thawfest on April 22, 2023 at the American Legion Post 128, located at 636 Madison Road in Standardsville, VA. Talk-in on the 145.470 MHz repeater (PL 151.4 Hz). Here is the link: <https://gcvarc.net/>

The Maryland Mobileers Spring Hamfest gets underway on April 23, 2023 at the Odenton Volunteer Fire Department, located at 1425 Annapolis Road (AKA Rte. 175) from 7:30 AM to 12 PM. Talk-in is on the 146.805 MHz repeater (PL 107.2 Hz) Here is the link: <https://sites.google.com/view/marylandmobileers/hamfest?authuser=0>

The Great Hagerstown Hamfest takes place on May 6, 2023 at the Washington County Agricultural Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike, in Boonsboro, MD. Talk-in in 147.090 (+) repeater (PL 100Hz). Here is the link: <https://w3cwc.org/images/GreatHagerstownHamfest2023.pdf>

The Maryland FM Association's Memorial Day Hamfest will be held May 28, 2023 at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. The fairgrounds are located at 2210 Fairgrounds Road (Route 144). Talk-in on the 146.760 MHz (-) repeater (PL 107.2 Hz). Here is the link: <http://www.marylandfm.org/Hamfest.htm>

The Ole Virginia Hams are holding their Ham Radio Tailgate Party on June 3, 2023 in the field across from Signal Hill Park in Manassas Park, VA. The address for Signal Hill Park is 9300 Signal View Drive. Talk-in will be on the 146.970 MHz (-) repeater (PL 100.0 Hz). Here is the link: <https://w4ovh.net/tailgate-flyer/>

Training – Our current class will be completing on May 9 with the exam. If you are interested in taking an exam, send me an email at ka4gfy@arri.net to let me know you are coming so we know we have enough materials.

Contests –

- April 15 and 16 – Nebraska QSO Party. Exchange is state.
- April 15 and 16 – Michigan QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- April 15 and 16 – North Dakota QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- April 15 and 16 – Ontario QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- April 16 – Quebec QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- April 23 – North American SSB Sprint. Exchange is other station's call, your call, serial number, your name and state.
- April 30 – Florida QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- May 6 and 7 – 7th Area QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- May 6 and 7 – Indiana QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- May 6 and 7 – Delaware QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- May 6 and 7 – New England QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

- May 27 and 28 – CQ Worldwide WPX Contest, CW. Exchange is RST 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://wvsac.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.

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 since early December. We continue to get good reports from users reporting they have coverage where they did not before. As you drive around, keep checking the repeater to see where you can access it. We are doing some site work for a remote receiver for the 147.315 repeater. Once that comes online, we will let everybody know.

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. 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.

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

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, K4K BK—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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