



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
May 2023

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Wilson, KL4KLL, and Ian, N8IK, take part in Operation Whirlwind. See ARES, below, for details

Member News

Welcome New Members

Nikki Dickey (NC), Laurel Brase (NC), and Todd Jenkins (KO4DON)

Net Control Class

Net Control Coordinator **Bryan Pettigrew**, WD4ADF, reports: The online class session will be on Monday, 15 May, at 1900 with a practical application exercise after the class to test equipment and answer any questions. The practice net control session on the 2m repeater will be on Saturday, 20 May at 1300. If you're interested in attending the training or acting as an "Elmer" as a station checking into the student-run nets, please send me an email to bryan.a.pettigrew@gmail.com by Wednesday, 10 May, so I can get an accurate headcount for students attending the online session and "Elmers" helping out with the Saturday student-run nets. I will do the online class via the Zoom link we have for monthly meetings, so, once you sign up, I will send you a meeting maker with the link for the online session. Once all of

the students have been identified, I will send out the course materials you will use for the 15 May class and a preamble/script for the student run nets.

President's Corner

Don (KI4D)

We are just about one month away from our biggest club event of the year, **Field Day 2023**. ARRL Field Day is the weekend of June 24-25 and will be held at Chinquapin Park in Alexandria. Behind the scenes, **Field Day Chair Bob**, KO4ZIK, has been working feverishly to get us prepared for this big event. Bob is working with the Field Day committee to make sure all of the preparation details are worked out. It is not too early to make plans to attend, and to provide help to Bob. Bob will provide an update at the May Meeting on May 12.



Several club members will be travelling to attend **Hamvention 2023** next week, May 19, 20, 21. This annual event is the largest ham radio gathering of the year, drawing attendance from hams, worldwide. The event is held at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. This event draws the biggest ham radio personalities in the world, including the most popular YouTubers. The event features ham radio vendors of every description with all sorts of products to touch and see, including the newest products arriving on the market. Some of the biggest ham radio discounts of the year are available during Hamvention, including discounts on used gear at the largest tailgating event of the year. Bon Voyage to **Rich** (KA4GFY), **Ian** (N8IK), **Jay** (K3VW), **Ted** (W9TCE), and others. Hamvention is a spectacle to behold, one that every ham should aspire to attend, one day. The Hamvention App is available here.



The US Department of Defense will host this year's **Armed Forces Day (AFD) Cross-Band Test** on Saturday, May 14. While Armed Forces Day is May 21, the AFD cross-band military-amateur radio event traditionally takes place one week earlier to avoid any conflict with the Dayton Hamvention. The event is open to all radio amateurs. The AFD Cross-Band Test is a two-way communications exercise between military and amateur radio stations, as authorized under FCC Part 97 rules (47 CFR Part 97.111), and Department of Defense Instruction 4650.02 which establishes the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS). During the exercise, radio amateurs listen for stations on military operating frequencies and transmit on frequencies in adjacent amateur bands. ARRL has promoted the participation of military and amateur radio stations in the AFD event for more than 50 years. There are 24 military stations registered across the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, that will be participating in the 2023 event. Several of those stations will be using the 60-meter interoperative channels during this exercise. All operations will be on a not-to-interfere basis, in case there are real-world missions being supported during the event timeframe. A detailed list of modes and frequencies for military/government stations taking part in the Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Test and information on the AFD message is available at, <https://www.dodmars.org/mars-comex-information-website/armed-forces-day>

We would like to welcome three new members to Alexandria Radio Club. Welcome aboard to **Nikki, Laurel, and Todd!** Nikki is studying to get her first license as soon as possible. Laurel has a GMRS license and hopes to pass her first ham license test soon. Todd, KQ4DON, is looking forward to joining the club weekly net, and is working to get up on HF, 20m.

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club is hosting their annual Ham Radio Tail Gate Party on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 8 am to 2 pm. The event is across the street from Signal Hill Park in Manassas Park, 9300 Signal View Dr. Manassas Park. General admission is \$5 per person and \$20 per vehicle to set up for tailgating. This is a popular event for club members looking for used gear. More information is at www.w40vh.net.

The May 12 meeting of the Alexandria Radio Club will feature **Tom Schiller, N6BT**, founder and owner of Next Generation Antennas. Tom hails from Kingman, AZ. Since the early 1980's N6BT has been researching antenna designs and he continues to develop, manufacture, and sell his new line of antennas under the name Next Generation Antennas that incorporate his latest research and patent-pending technology. In 2022 Tom published the fourth edition of his very popular book "Array of Light" which was first published in 2010. This is new information on verticals, empirical testing, development of the VOR, repurposing of old material and more! Tom sold the well-known Force 12 product line in 2008, but can answer any questions about those designs.



Tom Schiller, N6BT

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

1 Membership 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 NVIS Antenna Working Group has formed and is working on selection of which antennas should be NVIS field-tested. The May club meeting Ham workshop will feature a discussion of Virginia QSO Party NVIS propagation Experiences by Ryan Stinebiser, KO4EBY.

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 pm, Friday, May 12, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue. See **President's Corner** for details.

Last Meeting

Minutes – Carol (KN4LL)

Date: April 14, 2023

Time: 1900 hours

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

Presentation:

- Topic: Build a 10-meter Moxon Antenna
- Presenter: John Portune, W6NBC

Reports:

Secretary: Carol KN4LL – No report – March Minutes not available

Treasurer: Erik KI4BXV – Current Balance = \$13,152.74; 2022 taxes have been filed.

President: Don KI4D

- Thanks to all participants in the Silent Key ceremony at the last meeting
 - SK family members listening in expressed their gratitude.
- Marine Corps Marathon – there is a new organizer this year who has been invited to speak at our September meeting.

Membership: Joe KO4QQX – No report available

ARES/RACES: Rick N4ASX

- Briefed plan for April 25 exercise to provide supplemental communications for the city EOC.

Repeaters: Ian N8IK

- Servers at the hospital were restarted for DSTAR connection.

Education/Training: Richard KW4UJ

- Current class will end on May 9 with license exam.

Trailer: Sean K4KBK

- Waiting on invoice for work that was done a couple of months ago.
- Antennas need to be remounted prior to Field Day.

Webmaster/PIO: Richard KW4UJ/Ian N8IK/Jan KB2LRX

- Working on publicity for Field Day
 - Handouts are available from ARRL
 - Looking into business cards with club QR Code

Net Control: Bryan WD4ADF

- 20 Apr: KI4D/WD4ADF
- 27 Apr: N8IK/KC3A00
- 04 May: WD4ADF/WA6MPR
- 11 May: WA6NPR/KQ4DNE

Old Business

- None

New Business – Don KI4D

- Club 70th Anniversary is next year; need to begin planning celebration with keynote speaker, Craig Fugate.
- Hamvention is May 19-21 in Dayton, Ohio.

ADJOURNMENT: 2031 hours

Ham Workshop: Don KI4D

- **Topic:** Beyond Line of Sight with NVIS

Attendance (24)

Name	Call Sign
Don	KI4D
Sean	K4KBK
Erik	KI4BXU
Carol	KN4LLL
Ian	N8IK
Richard	KW4UJ
Rick	N4ASX
Ted	W9TCE
Jan	KB2LRX
Bjorn	KC3A00
David Hotle	
Sandy	KQ4DVE
William	KM4KLG
Bryan	WD4ADF
Tim Keutel	
Andy	WV8AA
Jay	KV3W
Ryan	KO4EBY
Rich	KA4GFY
Scott	W6GOV
Bryan	KE4WGI
Alex	KO4ZMC
Leon Wittwer	
John	W6NBC

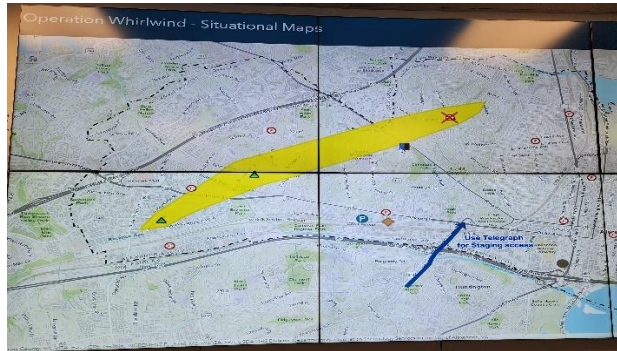


John Portune W6NBC describes the 10-meter Noxon antenna during our April meeting.

ARES

Rick (N4ASX)

Operation Whirlwind



Left: Club members Heath, WE3B, and Sean, K4KBK, operate from Alexandria Fire Station 203, during Operation Whirlwind, an exercise of the City's Emergency Management System. Right: The simulated path of a tornado traveled through many Alexandria neighborhoods.

First, I want to thank the following for supporting the City's Operation Whirlwind exercise. This exercise was held on April 25. Primarily this involved Fire Station 203 and the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to exercise and train for a major weather event.

Because this was on a weekday, and the City asked for only five operators, we were able to support fully. I was out of town, so the ARES effort was led by **Ian, N8IK**, with backup from **Rich, KA4GFY**. Those who volunteered were:

Ian, N8IK – AEC (Acting EC) at EOC as lead and planner

Don, KI4D – F.S. 203

Sean, K4KBK – F.S. 203

Wilson, KM4KLL – EOC

Heath, WE3B – F.S. 203

Rich, KA4GFY off-site station to cover HF and liaison communications as needed.

While not going into the After-Action Report, this was one of the first tests of FULL EOC operation in the City in a while. We were given some advanced notice but no details on the "disaster" itself. The assumption was that power may go out at our repeater sites, so the comm plan included both SIMPLEX frequencies and the use of the D-Star repeater, which is located at the hospital on emergency backup power.

In the FEMA standard we, amateur radio support, work under the Logistics Branch Chief who is in the EOC. Traffic (both formal written and tactical traffic) comes into the ARES station at the EOC and is then passed to the Logistics Branch Chief. The Logistics Branch Chief passes it to the Operations Chief and to the Officer in charge. I spell this out as a point that ALL who

volunteer need to take the FEMA classes (IS-100, IS-700) and later (IS-200, IS-800), and if you plan to manage ARES efforts at any level the ARES TASK BOOK lists other required and optional classes. This training can be done on-line and will take a few hours. All ARES volunteers need to understand how this system works.

Items to think about:

1 – Had this been a real tornado, would you be prepared? Not just as a volunteer but to mitigate damage.

2 – What if this involved a wider area? How do you help?

3 – As part of the exercise, our net control at the EOC linked up with **Rich**, KA4GFY, in the event we needed HF or other links not installed at the EOC. We also linked up with **Sandy Kenyon**, KQ4DNE, at the Fairfax EOC. This was to ask for or get support from Fairfax EOC, and if we need mutual support from the FAIRFAX ARES group. Had this event covered more areas, we might have been working with multiple ARES groups and needed the support of the District Emergency Manager (DEC) to coordinate ARES resources.



Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE, stood ready at the Fairfax EOC.

4 – While CERT did not come up on GMRS, it was available and monitored by ARES staff at the EOC. In a tornado scenario, CERT's function would be at the neighborhood level organizing and helping those in their neighborhoods until first responders could be organized, prioritized, and deployed. GMRS provides a low-cost communications tool for CERT members and frees up Amateur radio channels for our functions. But, we also need to help integrate their communications into the EOC and into the disaster communications structure.

Our volunteers did an excellent job. Thanks to Ian, N8IK, for planning, management, and execution. Very well done! The team at EOC and FS203 did a great job and were able to exercise all the options. Every exercise teaches us more about how to do it BETTER, FASTER, and more efficiently.

Currently, we have only 25 ARES volunteers in a club with over 100 members. These volunteers provide the City and the public with a reason to support the club. If not you, then who?

Upcoming Classes

[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

73, Rick, N4ASX

Activities and Events

Rich (KA4GFY)

Hamfests –

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/>

The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club's Father's Day Hamfest at Arcadia will be held on June 18 in Upperco, MD. The location is the Arcadia Fire Company grounds, 16020 Carnival Avenue in Upperco. Talk-in is on the 146.670 (-) MHz repeater (PL 107.2 Hz). Here is the link: <https://w3ft.com/hamfest/>

Training – Our current class wrapped up on May 9 with the exam. Congratulations to all who earned their new license. We'll offer a new class in the fall.

Contests –

- May 19 and 20 - Arkansas QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- May 27 and 28 – CQ Worldwide WPX Contest, CW. Exchange is RST and serial number.
- June 3 and 4 – Kentucky QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- June 3 and 4 – ARRL International Digital Contest. Exchange is 4-character grid square.
- June 10 through 12 – ARRL June VHF Contest. Exchange is 4-character grid square.
- June 17 and 18 – West Virginia QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- July 1 – RAC Canada Day Contest. 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 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 seven 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 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 even tried the 23 cm repeater after one net and it worked quite well. If you have an ICOM 9700, be sure to join in.

We also have one of the few 33 cm analog 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. There is an active group of 33 cm enthusiasts in the Richmond area and they usually have equipment to sell at the Richmond Frostfest, so this will be a good place to look.

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, 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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