



# ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club  
October 2023

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**Scott Larimer** (KN4RPA) gave details about plans for the upcoming Marine Corps Marathon at our last meeting.

## Member News

***Marine Corps Marathon***

**October 29, 2023**

**To volunteer for the**

**radio communications team go to**

**<https://hamcommunity.com/mcm-register>**

## President's Corner

**Don (KI4D)**

Fall weather is finally here, it was in the 40s this morning when I stepped out, and leaves may be turning soon. But, there is still some time remaining for comfortable outdoor ham radio or POTA activity. Hope you can take some ham radio advantage of the pleasant weather while we still have it.

We had great weather for the NVIS antenna testing project conducted on September 9th at Jefferson Manor Park in Alexandria. The purpose of that event was to field test various NVIS configured antennas to determine which one(s) provided the best NVIS returns using WSPR on 40 meters. After installation of various (different) antennas by **Todd Taylor (KO4IJH)**, **Ryan Stinebiser (KO4EBY)**, **Gary Sessums (KC5QCN)**, and **Don Lewis (KI4D)**, Todd configured his laptop for an Icom IC-7100 transceiver to make WSPR transmissions and record returns. The results of NVIS testing will be analyzed and provided at a later date.



On September 17th Alexandria CERT conducted a Teen CERT orientation at the Alexandria EOC and invited ham radio participation from Alexandria Radio Club. As a teen, **Alex Lammers (KO4ZMC)**, pictured in gray shirt, center), attended the event and provided an introduction on ham radio. Kudos to Alex for a great presentation.

In connection with National Preparedness Month, the City of Alexandria hosted an Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 22nd at Market Square. The purpose of the event was to help make sure the community is ready for any emergency situation. Alexandria Radio Club was invited to participate to exhibit the amateur radio emergency communications role in emergency preparedness. Others participating the Office of Emergency Management, Volunteer Alexandria, Alexandria Health Department, Alexandria Fire Department, Alexandria Police Department, and others. (Pictured, right: Sean [K4K BK] and I talk to Fire Chief Corey Smedley.)



The October 13th meeting of the Alexandria Radio Club will feature “The State of our Hobby” by **Mike Aimone** (WA8AHZ). Mike is the ARRL VA Section Affiliated Club Coordinator. Mike was first licensed in 1961 in Detroit Michigan, and was an active ham through college at Michigan Technological University, and the Huskey Amateur Radio Club, W8YY. Upon graduation from college in 1970, he became an inactive ham until his retirement from Federal Civil Service in 2016. Mike restarted the hobby of his youth in retirement and enjoys DXing and contesting.

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 figure. Since time is a premium, it is requested that committee updates be concise so that we can accommodate the entire program in the timeframe allowed.

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

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)

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## Guest Column

### The Case for Human Contact

By **Ken Van Wyk** (K0RvW)

As I posted on Discord a few days back, I achieved contacts (QSOs) with 100 countries (DXCC) recently. Most of these contacts were done with digital modes like FT8, so the “human” aspect was minimal. But that didn’t stop me.

As I approached the 100 “finish” line—I’d argue it’s really a “start” line in a sense—finding countries I hadn’t contacted became rare. At times, it even seemed asymptotic and I’d never get there, but I stuck to it.

I noticed a lot of people fail to confirm (QSL) contacts, which frustrated me enormously. So, I started doing some things to try to increase my odds a bit.

Whenever I had a QSO with a new (to me) country, I checked if the operator had a published email address on QRZ. Most do, but there are exceptions. When they did, though, I sent a personal email to them. It included a QSL card JPG image (generated by my logging program,

but you can easily do your own), and a personal note. I explained I was working towards DXCC and would greatly appreciate their QSL.

For the final 10, I sent QSL postcards with a personal note of thanks. (10 was arbitrary. Perhaps I should do all 100.) And, for a select few countries, I dove in and learned about each country. Starting with their Wikipedia page, I read up on the country, its population, form of government, and so on. This was especially the case for DXCC entities I'd never heard of before. E.g., Nauru, Tuvalu, Dodecanese, and so on.

One source of fun information on a few of these, especially the small island nations, was travel pages. I searched for "how do I travel to [country]" and found tourism guides for all of them. What did I learn? Fun things, mostly.

Did you know, to get to Tuvalu by air, you fly to Fiji, and then there are 3 flights a week to Tuvalu. The small island nation is on a tiny strip of land, with the airport carving a straight line right up the middle. As such, the airport RUNWAY becomes a popular place for the locals to hang out and socialize in the evenings. It's a big party on the runway every evening! (I wouldn't suggest trying this at, say, Reagan National.)

Yes, the digital modes make QSOs mechanical and impersonal. We don't need to limit our contacts to those brief—I'm looking at you, FT8—exchanges, however. Make personal contact and say thank you. Read up about the countries you've never heard of before. Have fun.

I should add that one of the things that motivated me to DXCC was my grandfather, whom I knew simply as "Oupa." He's a silent key now (ZS6R), but was huge into amateur radio in the 1950s and 1960s, mostly CW (Morse code). I have one of his QSL cards from 1953, and on it he proudly lists his own DXCC achievement. I spent many hours pondering DXCC over CW and how "impersonal" that too must have felt. But, Oupa lacked resources like Wikipedia and national tourism information web sites. I wish I could have that conversation with him now.

"I wish honky-tonks didn't have no closing time, and I wish grandpas never died."—Riley Green

73 de K0RvW

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## **Next Meeting**

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, October 13, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue. See **President's Corner** for details.

## **Last Meeting**

### **Minutes – Carol (KN4LLL)**

**Date:** September 8, 2023

**Time:** 1900 hours

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

#### **Presentation:**

- Topic: Marine Corps Marathon – October 29, 2023
- Presenter: Scott Larimer (KN4RPA)

#### **Reports—**

##### **Secretary: Carol KN4LLL**

- Presented August Minutes

##### **Treasurer: Erik KI4BXU**

- Current Balance = \$13,466.36

##### **President: Don KI4D**

- Briefed status of program/projects
  - Discord Server activity
  - NIVIS Antenna Group
  - Recognized Alex, KO4ZMC, for participating in the Ottawa YOTA Camp in July

##### **Membership: Joe KO4QZX/Bob KO4ZIK**

- No report

##### **ARES/RACES: Rick N4ASX**

- Briefed by Ian in Rick's absence; Call to members to consider volunteering for ARES

##### **Repeaters: Rich KA4GFY**

- Briefed by Ian in Rich's absence; repeaters are working fine; resolving internet issues at the hospital

##### **AREDN Project: Joe KT3I/Ian N8IK**

##### **Education/Training: Rich KA4GFY**

- Briefed by Ian in Rich's absence; Next licensing class is October 3-December 5

##### **Trailer: Sean K4KBK**

- Looking for a banner to use at the 22 September CERT Emergency Services Fair at Market Square

##### **Webmaster/PIO: Richard KW4UJ/Jan KB2LRX**

- Website WordPress software requires upgrading; Richard will take care of it on 9 September
- Noted that the list of Hamfests needs updating

##### **Net Control – Bryan WD4ADF**

- Net control slots are filled for the next 5 weeks
- Proposed starting a New Hams Net

## Old Business

- None

## New Business – Don KI4D

- Club proposal for Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) was briefed by Sean; to be voted on in October meeting

**Adjournment: 2034hours**

## Ham Workshop: Todd KO4IJH

- Topic: Batteries Show & Tell

## Attendance (32)

Name	Call Sign
Don	KI4D
Sean	K4KBK
Carol	KN4LLL
Erik	KI4BXU
Ian	N8IK
Richard	KW4UJ
Rich	KA4GFY
Ted	W9TCE

Bob	KO4ZIK
Gary	KC5QCN
Jay	KV3W
William	KM4KLK
Bryan	WD4ADF
Jan	KB2LRX
Ryan	KO4EBY
Chris	
Paul	

Peter	
Mason	KO4ROV
Thomas	KQ4KXH
Ed	W4EDF
Alex	KO4ZMC
Ed	W4ELU
Tom	NH7XJ
Jim	W4YUE
Sandy	KQ4DNE

Louis	KO4QJB
Andrew	KI4THF
Ted	N4JOG
Scott	KM4RDR
Curt	N6ATC
Brian	KE4WGI

## ARES

### Rick (N4ASX)

The new Corporate Charter that was being proposed had nothing to say regarding support of ARRL or ARES. But it did list support to the city in emergencies and public service. The last time I saw this type of thing was when ARLINGTON RACES decided to take over these functions in Arlington.

ARES is NOT a subset of the Alexandria Radio Club. It invites all amateurs to volunteer without being ARC club members. If the club decides to not officially support ARES, then I will establish meetings on a regular basis to keep ARES functioning.

ARES provides for mutual support in a disaster and has a training task book to prepare our volunteers to perform efficiently should there be an emergency.

I encourage those who want to spend the time and make the commitment to join Alexandria ARES.

73, **Rick Bunn**, N4ASX, ARES EC

## Activities and Events

### **Hamfests –**

The Southern Maryland Tailgate Fest takes place October 14 at the Hollywood, MD Volunteer Fire Department. It's sponsored by the Saint Mary's County Amateur Radio Association. Talk-in on the 147.195 (PL 156.7Hz) repeater. Here is the link: <http://k3hki.org/>

The Carroll County, MD, hamfest takes place October 22 at the Door to Virtue Masonic Lodge, located at 46 Monroe Street in Westminster, MD. Talk-in on the 145.410 MHz (114.8 Hz PL) repeater. Here is the link: <https://k3pzn.net/>

### **Training –**

Our class began on **October 3** and will conclude **December 5, 2023**.

### **Contests and On-Air Events –**

- October 14 – Solar Eclipse QSO Party. Sponsored by HamSCI and ARRL, to study ionospheric events during that day's solar eclipse. Details at [www.hamsci.org/contest-info](http://www.hamsci.org/contest-info).
- October 14 and 15 – Nevada QSO Party. Exchange is RST and ARRL section.
- October 14 and 15 – Arizona QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- October 14 and 15 – Pennsylvania QSO Party. Exchange is serial number and ARRL section.
- October 14 and 15 – South Dakota QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- October 16 through 20 – ARRL School Club Roundup. Exchange is RST and class. Most of us will be an individual station.
- October 20 through 23. Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Details at <http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>
- October 21 – New York QSO Party. Details at [www.nyqp.org](http://www.nyqp.org)

### **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.**

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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 2023 club dues as reflected with the Club Treasurer. If you have paid club dues for 2023 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 Palma, 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)  
<mailto:secretary@[w4hfh.org](mailto:secretary@w4hfh.org)> secretary@[w4hfh.org](mailto:secretary@w4hfh.org)  
<mailto:board@[w4hfh.org](mailto:board@w4hfh.org)> board@[w4hfh.org](mailto:board@w4hfh.org)  
<mailto:directors@[w4hfh.org](mailto:directors@w4hfh.org)> directors@[w4hfh.org](mailto:directors@w4hfh.org)  
<mailto:leadership@[w4hfh.org](mailto:leadership@w4hfh.org)> leadership@[w4hfh.org](mailto:leadership@w4hfh.org)

ARC-SHORTS compiled by Jan A. Maas (KB2LRX) – ARC Public Information Officer