



# ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club  
December 2023

## Scenes from Our Holiday Party



The Alexandria Radio Club toasted the holiday season in our traditional December dinner at Glory Days Grill. Highlighting the evening were the awards to members for outstanding service during the year—pictured below. Sean Gallagher (K4KBK) and Bryan Pettigrew (WD4ADF) served as presenters. (Photos by Jan Maas, KB2LRX, and Gary Niki, KC7TNU.)

# Awards

## **Trailblazing Band Captain — Mr. Alex Lammers, KO4ZMC**

When faced with an antenna that did not want to perform on Field Day, Alex worked diligently to troubleshoot the problem, ultimately getting the radio back on the air after several attempts by other more seasoned operators failed. Alex continued his hard charge working through the night to ensure he captured as many contacts as possible on both the 80M and 160M bands.



## **Mr. CW — Mr. Ian Keith, N8IK**

Ian worked diligently through the night to maximize the number of CW contacts made for Field Day. When the dust cleared at the end of the event, Ian led in all modes with over 250 CW QSOs.

## **Digital Star Award — Mr. Ian Keith, N8IK**

Ian led the charge to get our digital radio repeaters back on the air after a failed DSL connection rendered our DStar and DMR radio systems unusable. He replaced the hardline connection with wireless cell data connection that he was able to get established on the First Responder network, FIRSTNET.



## **Tech Ingenuity and Advancement — Mr. Joe Porcelli, KT3I**

Joe's knowledge and experience with computers and latest technology was crucial to the success of Field Day. He set up a local mesh network, allowing all logging computers to a real-time status of contacts made, ensuring no duplicates, but also providing other stations with contact info to ensure each station captured proper call sign and other data needed to complete a QSO. Additionally, he created a real-time dashboard, which enabled all persons onsite to see the updated stats on contacts made, number for each mode, and other info vital to the success of Field Day.



**Line Thrower Extraordinaire — Mr. Ryan Stinebiser, KO4EBY**

Ryan's ability to throw an antenna line into a tree is uncanny. After several others had difficulty getting a line into a tree to set up the 15M antenna, Ryan threw a line and made the whole process look easy



**The Man, The Myth, The Legend — Mr. Jay Orbin, KV3W**

Jay worked the 15M band for the entire operating period. He was one of very few stations that operated for the entire 24-hour period without a change in operator. His efforts using both Phone and Digital modes netted nearly 150 QSOs.



**Sight & Sound Award — Mr. Richard Morani, KW4UJ**

Since the COVID crisis, Richard has worked tirelessly and consistently to ensure that the production of our monthly hybrid Club meetings occur without a hiccup. The video camera setup, wireless microphones, and speaker placement along with operation of the Zoom console all contribute a professional production where both the local audience and the remote participants can fully engage in the details of the meeting.



**Outstanding Public Relations — Mr. Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**

For developing critical relationships with the City of Alexandria. Partnerships have been formed with the Fire Department, Emergency Operations Center, Parks and Recreation, and the city CERT Program. All were instrumental in the success of both Field Day and Winter Field Day.





**Food Service Logistics — Mrs. Sue Gallagher, K4KBK YL**

Sue was instrumental in getting many of the food items and other logistics needed to make Field Day successful. She shopped at many local warehouse and grocery stores, including the local commissary. She also purchased many last-minute items needed to ensure we had adequate safety measures in place during night operations.



**Golden Mic Award — Mr. Bryan Pettigrew, WD4ADF**

Known as the golden voice of Net Control, Bryan has shared some of his talents for conducting organized radio nets with other newer Club members through the establishment of a formal training program. As a result, the Alexandria Radio Club now has some of the cleanest, clearest, and most efficient Net Controllers of any club in the region.



**Public Information Officer and Publisher Extraordinaire — Mr. Jan Maas, KB2LRX**

As PIO, Photographer, and Publisher of the Club Newsletter, Jan worked very hard to get the Club message out and insured that the message was correct. He attended every event that the Club supported, capturing pictures, and interviewing key personnel and talking to the public. In his spare time, Jan has begun to build a Club program focused on promotional materials and public displays to further promote the Club.



**Jack of All Trades & Master of All — Mr. Matthew Johnson, KQ4AGS**

Matt has provided outstanding support throughout the entire year, especially getting us ready for Field Day. He was instrumental in updating the club trailer by repairing electrical systems inside, correcting antenna issues, and enhancing the side panels. He was also the go-to person on Field Day, helping many stations with getting set up and was able to obtain two porta-potties for club use at no cost to the club.

**Master Chef — Mr. William Wilson, KM4KLLK**

Wilson provided another great menu of food items, ensuring that all participants and visitors had plenty of food, drinks (especially coffee), and snacks to keep the entire team fed, hydrated, and AWAKE!

**Field Day Maestro Award — Mr. Robert Crumley, KO4ZIK**

In 2023, Bob accepted the daunting task of managing his first Field Day event at a brand-new location. He studied the new location and built a plan that accommodated all stations and had a provisioned area for food service and public relations. His detailed planning resulted in an optimum access to all stations which allowed for demonstrations during visits by other hams and the general public.

**Key Player Award — Mr. Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE**

Sandy is a man of many talents. He fulfilled key roles in 2023 supporting both the George Washington and St Patrick’s Day parades and filled lead roles in City Emergency Management drills. In real life, Sandy is employed by the Fairfax County Emergency Management Office (EMO). In this capacity, he has provided invaluable assistance to the Alexandria Radio Club when coordination with Fairfax County EMO was required. Sandy continues to extend his support to the Club by agreeing to serve on the 2024 Board of Directors.

**Big Picture Award — Mr. Don Lewis, KI4D**

As President in 2023, Don was responsible for advancing the Club on multiple fronts, including public promotion, broadening interactions with City Public Safety Officials and teaming with members of other area Radio Clubs to achieve common goals. Don also reviewed Club operations, supporting documentation as well as Club processes and procedures for the purpose of strengthening the Club’s position and viability through the next decade.

**Member News**

<p><b>Welcome New Members</b></p> <p><b>Daniela Curl (KD4WL)</b> <b>Derek Fossi (KQ4NAI)</b></p>
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## **Four Earn New Licenses at December ARC Test Session: Featuring New Electronic Test System**

*By Gary Sessums (KC5QCN)*

The Alexandria Radio Club (ARC) held an amateur radio exam session on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Alexandria Police Department. This test session was conducted for the students enrolled in the fall session of the Alexandria Radio Club FCC License School.

**Rich Adamy-KA4GFY**, the ARC Lead Volunteer Examiner, had a conflicting event and asked me to pinch hit for him and conduct a one-time only test session on his behalf.

Four candidates sat for amateur radio exams and all of them passed.

1. **Oscar Brenninkmeyer** - earned his Technician (KQ4MZR)
2. **Derek Fossi** - earned his Technician (KQ4NAI)
3. **Aaron Kahn** - earned his General (KQ4NAJ)
4. **Jan Maas-KB2LRX** upgraded to Extra

This ARRL exam session was a paperless exam session conducted entirely by computer tablet using the **ExamTools** system. No paper whatsoever was used during the exam session.

The ARRL volunteer examiners, all members of the Alexandria Radio Club, were:

- 1) **Gary Sessums-KC5QCN**
- 2) **Mason Rumble-KO4ROV**
- 3) **Tim O'Neill-K2KT**
- 4) **Richard Morani-KW4UJ**

**Ian Keith-N8IK**, also an ARRL VE and ARC member, was present, but was not as yet authorized to administer paper less exams via computer tablet by ExamTools.

All the students seemed to like the new way of administering electronic exams by computer tablet. The VEs sure liked the new way of using computer tablets to administer electronic exams as it was a lot simpler to review the exam material and electronically sign the forms.

## Field Day Results

Field Day Coordinator **Bob Crumley** (KO4ZIK) reported that the Alexandria Radio Club placed tenth in our Field Day Class (6A) with 5,054 points. Details are on Page 76 of the December *QST*.

### Next Meeting

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, January 12, 2024, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue. Zoom connection will be available.

### Last Meeting

**Date:** November 10, 2023  
**Time:** 1900 hours  
**Location:** APD Community Room, Wheeler Avenue

**Presentation – no presentation due to annual election**

#### **Reports**

**Secretary: Carol KN4LLL**

- No report

**Treasurer: Erik KI4BXV**

- Current Balance = \$13,304.41

**President: Don KI4D**

- December 8th meeting will be the annual holiday dinner at Glory Days Restaurant – POC is Ian N8IK
- Jan KB2LRX will arrange a slide show
- Rick N4ASX will arrange awards presentation

**Membership: Joe KO4QQX/Bob KO4ZIK**

- No report

**ARES/RACES: Rick N4ASX**

- Rick reported on meeting with the hospital POC regarding equipment needs

**Repeaters: Rich KA4GFY**

- No report

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

- No report

**Education/Training: Rich KA4GFY**

- No report

**Trailer: Sean K4KBK**

- No report

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

- No report

**Net Control – Bryan WD4ADF**

- No report

**Old Business**

- None

**New Business – Don KI4D**

- 2024 Budget will be presented at the January meeting.
- 2024 Officers Election
  - The candidates presented for election were nominated by club members and received by the nominating committee comprised of Sandy Kenyon-KQ4DNE and Gary Sessums-KC5QCN.
  - Prior to voting, Robert Colby-WA4ZJR withdrew his name from nomination for the 3-year term open slot on the Board of Directors.
  - No additional nominations from the floor for write-in candidates were nominated by club members present.
  - After lengthy discussion of the eligibility of two of the candidates and a discussion of club governing documents, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to consider the candidates eligible to serve in accordance with the current By-Laws and the slate of candidates previously distributed via the club's email distribution list was presented to the club for election.
  - Of the club members present, 34 members were declared to be eligible voters.
  - 34 ballots were distributed, voting was conducted by secret ballot, and all ballots were counted in public view of the club membership.
  - After the votes were tabulated, the election results listed below were announced:
    - **President**  
Don Lewis-KI4D — 20 votes  
Rick Bunn- N4ASX — 14 votes
    - **Vice-President**  
Sean Gallagher-K4KBK — 20 votes  
Rich Adamy-KA4GFY — 13 votes



There was one abstention in the voting for Vice-President

**Secretary**

Carol Myers-KN4LLL  
uncontested election

**Treasurer**

Erik Misavage-KI4BXU  
uncontested election

**Fill the unexpired term of the Board of Directors 3-year term Jan 2022 through December 2024**

Sandy Kenyon-KQ4DNE  
uncontested election

**Fill the unexpired term of the Board of Directors 2-year term January 2023 through December 2024**

Joe Porcelli-KT3I  
uncontested election

**Adjournment: 2015 hours**

**Attendance (35)**

Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Gary	KC5QCN	Andy	KI4THF	William	KM4KLL
Rick	N4ASX	Richard	KW4UJ	Ian	N8IK
Tom	NH7XJ	Ed	K4ESC	Ted	W9TCE
Matt	KQ4AGS	Sean	K5KKBK	Scott	KM4RDR
Howie	KQ4LEW	Aaron Wurm	No Call Sign	Erik	KI4BXU
Joseph	KQ4QQX	Jan	KB2LRX	Mason	KO4ROV
Thomas	KQ4KXH	Paul	KQ4LJS	Luciano	KB1TZN
Bryan	WD4ADF	Jack	KE7VOU	Bjorn	KC3AOO
Tim	KO4VFP	Rich	KA4GFY	Jay	KV3W
Jack	W4JJ	Tom	KJ4FUU	Ryan	KO4EBY
Gary	KC7TNU	Peter	N2KFA	Robert	KA4ZJR
Carol	KN4LLL	Don	KI4D		

**Activities and Events**

**Training –**

**Stay tuned for an announcement of our spring licensing class.**

## Events & Contests –

- **Jan 1, 2024 – Straight Key Night:** Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. Objective: This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>.
- **Jan 7, 2024 – Kids Day:** 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children. Details at <https://www.arrl.org/kids-day>.

### 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, 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 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)  
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<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)  
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