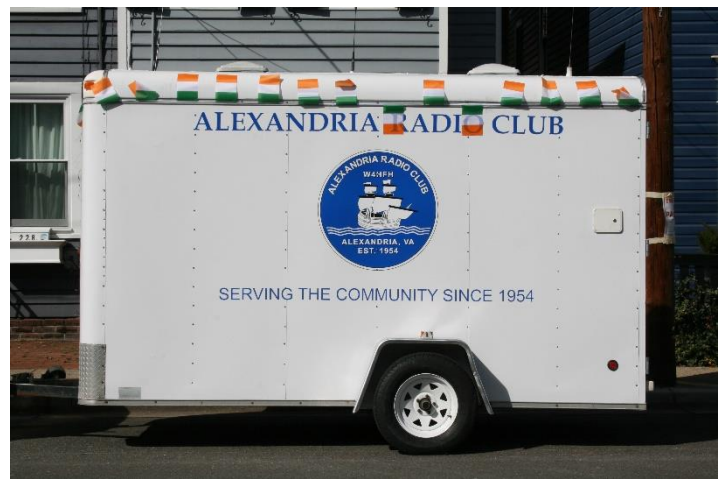




ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
January 2024

- ▶ **President's Corner**
- ▶ **Member News**
- ▶ **Activities and Events**
- ▶ **Next Meeting**
- ▶ **Last Meeting**
- ▶ **Club Leadership**



President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

Fellow Members, we've firmly arrived in 2024 but not without a few unanticipated changes. Our President, Don Lewis (KI4D), has chosen to resign from his current position while he deals with some personal health issues. Don will continue to participate in club activities as a Special Advisor. Per our by-laws, I have stepped up to assume the position of President. As I write this, the nomination process is underway for the Vice President's position and, as the result of one nomination, an open position on the Board of Directors. These positions will be voted on and filled at the February meeting.

This year promises to be a busy one. In the first quarter, we are getting setup to run **Winter Field Day** on the 27th & 28th of January then move forward to support the **GW Parade** on the 19th of February. In March, the Club will participate in the **St. Patrick's Day Parade** on

02 March as a marching unit pulling our Club trailer in the parade. If you would like to participate in any of these planned events, please contact us and we'll get you connected. These activities are always fun events.

While new to the position of President, Alexandria Radio Club, I have many years of experience in management positions of private and volunteer organizations and I have had the opportunity to function as the Club's Vice President for several years. We have a great club and are blessed to have outstanding members engaged in efforts to move our Club forward and make it relevant to local government and many other organizations. This year's goals and objectives include the review & discussion of some of our administrative processes, policies and procedures, a discussion of finance and budget issues and an effort to strengthen our communications capability on the 315 repeater from N. Old Town, Del Ray, and Potomac Yards. This is critical to our ability to support the City as outlined in the City's ResilientAlx charter document. See <https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/tes/stormwater/resilientalxcharterfinal20210108.pdf>

In closing, despite the unfortunate set of circumstances that led me to my current position, I would like to say that I'm very proud to serve as your Club President for 2024 and, further, in the spirit of cooperative engagement, I would like to say that this is Our Club and we need input and participation from all of our members. I have no private agenda for the Club and will only consider actions and activities that are good for the Club as a whole. We have a tremendously talented pool of people in our membership and I look forward to their continued engagement in Club plans, programs, and events.

73, **Sean** K4KBK

Member News

Nominations Sought for Club Vice President, Board Member

From Sandy Kenyon: Since Don Lewis, KI4D, has stepped down from the office of the President, and Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, has assumed the duties of the President in accordance with the club's by-laws, the office of Vice President is now open.

We are asking for nominations for Vice President to be voted on at the next general membership meeting, on February 9. Current Board of Directors member Bob Crumley has accepted a nomination for VP. That also means that he will be vacating his position on the board, so we are accepting nominations to fill his position for the remainder of the term, December 31, 2024.

Please email any nominations for VP or the Board of Director position to myself, Sandy Kenyon, KQ4NE, askenyon4@gmail.com and Gary Sessums, KC5QCE, kc5qce@arrl.net.

73, **Sandy** KQ4DNE

Best Wishes, Chief Smedley

The City of Alexandria celebrated the career of Fire Chief **Corey Smedley** at a reception January 9 at the Charles Houston Center. Smedley began serving the Alexandria Fire Department (AFD) in 2015, after a twenty-year career in the Prince George's County Fire Department. At the end of 2015, he was appointed Deputy Chief of AFD for Homeland Security and Emergency Management. He became Acting Chief in 2019, and permanent Chief the following year.

The Chief has always valued the work of the Alexandria Radio Club and ham volunteers, and warmly greeted ARC members who joined him at his retirement event. Pictured with him (right) are **Don Lewis** (left, KI4D) and **Sean Gallagher** (right, K4KBK). ARC members also introduced themselves to the new **Interim Chief Jim Swartz**, and assured him of the club's support.



Training Opportunities

NET CONTROLLER CLASSES

We now have a quorum of four students who will be participating in the next round of Net Controller Training hosted by WD4ADF, the club's Net Control and Training Committee Head. The classes will convene the week of 5 February with an online training session and instructor-run net on Monday evening. On Saturday 10 February in the afternoon, we will use the 2m repeater for student run nets. If you are interested in joining us as a "student" or participating in the Saturday nets as an "elmer," please send an email to bryan.a.pettigrew@gmail.com with your intentions. This is the first time in a while we have had Net Controller Training and we are looking forward to hosting the class and getting more club members on the air as future net control stations!

If you need more details, let me know. ~**Bryan** WD4ADF

Our Next Licensing Classes

Our next licensing classes (for Technician and General) are scheduled to begin in March (date TBD). If you know someone who wishes to become an amateur radio operator, have them contact us at training@w4hfh.org.

The Low Down on LoRa

At the end of our last meeting, **Joe Kalfa** (KD2HZG) gave a brief presentation on LoRa and Meshtastic. Here's more information from him with reference of our Discord group.

What is LoRa and what can Meshtastic do for me? LoRa is a relatively new radio protocol, designed around chirp spread spectrum. Without going too far into the weeds, this means it's resistant to interference and high noise environments, and efficient compared to single channel FM. LoRa was originally designed for IoT applications that required minimal data throughput, over relatively long distances where the users prioritized small size, and low power consumption.

Meshtastic is a software package that implements LoRa in way to allow people to send small text messages and GPS location information in a mesh network fashion. It offers similar functionality to APRS (not necessarily AX.25 by itself). Meshtastic is an open-source project, that is rapidly gaining popularity due to the low cost of hardware and the ability to function on ISM bands that require no license. It requires the use of a mobile app (available in both the Google play store and Apple store) or a desktop computer, and is very similar to Gotenna in terms of user interaction.

How do I get started?! The easiest way would be to join our Discord (<https://discord.com/invite/UaBFy69u>) and start chatting with those of us already involved. We may already have nodes and antennas on hand that could be used for your desired application. You can also reach out to the ARC email distro and ask any questions you might have to the larger group.

And check out <https://meshtastic.org/> The main meshtastic site, you can download firmware and look up different hardware options here.

New Net on Statewide Repeaters

Ian Keith (N8IK) sends word of a new DMR net that meets Sundays at 2100. Inaugurated on Jan.9, the net is designed to promote use of the linked DMR repeater system in Virginia and demonstrate the substantial coverage that the system has throughout the state. The net will also be used to share announcements about the system. The ARC DMR repeater (442.4125 +5Mhz Color Code 1) is part of the system.

Is Your Membership up to Date?

Membership dues are \$25.00 per year. The easiest and quickest way to pay dues is via PayPal on the W4HFH website at <https://w4hfh.org>, or you may mail a check or money order to Alexandria Radio Club, Inc., P.O. Box 30721, Alexandria, VA 22310. Please include your call sign if you have one.

Next Meeting

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, February 9, at the Alexandria Police Department Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue. Highlight: Winter Field Day report.

Last Meeting

Minutes – Carol (KN4LLL)

Date: January 12, 2024

Time: 1900 hours

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

Presentation:

- No guest presentation

Reports—

Secretary: Carol KN4LLL

- No report — December holiday party was held in lieu of business meeting.

Treasurer: Erik KI4BXV

- Current Balance = \$\$13,465.11

President: Don KI4D

- Don, KI4D, announced his resignation as ARC President due to health concerns.
- Sean, K4KBK, will act as President for the remainder of the term.

Membership: Joe KO4QXX/Bob KO4ZIK

- No report

ARES/RACES: Rick N4ASX

- No report

Repeaters: Rich KA4GFY

- Ian, N8IK, reported that the internet bill has been cut in half with move to FirstNet with more robust capability at the hospital

AREDN Project: Joe KT3I/Ian N8IK

- Firmware updates are published quarterly

Education/Training: Rich KA4GFY

- Richard, KW4UJ, reported that planning is in progress for the Spring 2024 Licensing Class
- Need to confirm that there will be enough instructors available before scheduling the class

Trailer: Sean K4KBK

- Modification plans are in the works
- Expect modifications to be done between the February parade and June field days

Webmaster/PIO: Richard KW4UJ/Jan KB2LRX

- Richard, KW4UJ, reported that the web site has been updated with new Officer information
 - Always seeking new content
- Jan, KB2LRX, will share ideas for future marketing at the next meeting

Net Control – Bryan WD4ADF

- Seeking net controllers for Jan 25 and Feb 1, including backups
- A net controller training will be scheduled

Old Business

- None

New Business – Sean K4KBK

- An election will be held to fill the Vice-President position that is vacant due to Sean moving into the President position; send nominations to Gary, KC5QCN or Sandy, KQ4DNE
- George Washington Birthday Parade is scheduled for February 19; Heath Wells, WE3B, is POC
- Upcoming Events:
 - Winter Field Day – January 27-28
 - GW Parade – February 19
 - St Patrick’s Day Parade – March 2
 - Winterfest (Oakton HS) – March 10
 - VA QSO Party – March 16-17

Adjournment: 1945 hours

Attendance (25)

	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Gary	KC5QCN	Ted	W9TCE	William	KM4KLK
Jim	W4YUE	Chris	KO4QVC	James	KQ5T
Andy	KI4THF	Louis	KO4QUB	Richard	KW4UJ
Sandy	KQ4DNE	Bryan	WD4ADF	Don	KI4D
Carol	KN4LLL	Joe	KD2HZG	Bob	KO4ZIK
Jay	KV3W	Bjorn	KC3AOO	Jan	KB2LRX
Ian	N8IK	Derek	KQ4NAI	Gary	KC7TNU
Erik	KI4BXU	Sean	K4KBK	Peter	N2KFA
Scott	KM4RDR				

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.

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 2024† *

Sean Gallagher, K4KBK—President
Vacant—Vice President
Carol Myers, KN4LLL—Secretary
Erik Misavage, KI4BXU—Treasurer

Elected Board of Directors, At Large*

Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK
Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE
Joseph A. Porcelli, KT3I

† Don Lewis, KI4D, was elected President in November, 2023, but resigned for health reasons on Jan. 12, 2024, at which time Sean Gallagher assumed the Presidency. The office of Vice President will be filled by a special election. 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