



1954-2024 — 70th Anniversary

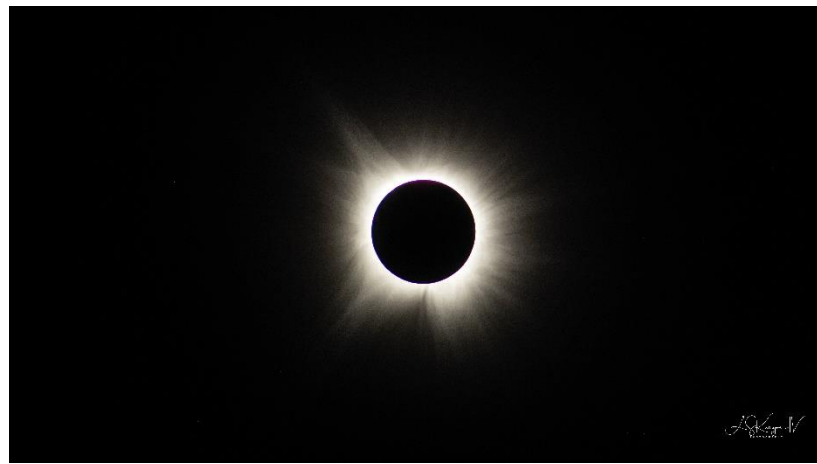


ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club

April 2024

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April 8 Total Eclipse: Photo by Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE. He and Alex Lammers, KO4ZMC, made separate expeditions to Texas to record the event. More photos below.

President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

Well, it's been a relatively quiet month except for Winterfest and the VA QSO party, but this afternoon as I began to write this we received some outstanding eclipse images from **Alex, KO4ZMC**, and **Sandy, KQ4DNE**, who were out there in the thick of it getting it done.

Thanks, Alex and Sandy, for keeping us current!

Before I forget, I need to announce a little change for next month's meeting arrangements. In May, we will not have the services of our past President and AV/Zoom extraordinaire, **Richard Morani, KW4UJ**, available to us so we will not be producing the monthly meeting in hybrid mode. **The meeting in May will be in person only.**

Now, as our May meeting will be an in-person only event, I thought that this would be a great opportunity to turn our meeting into a more social event. Consider it perhaps a "Christmas in May" or a "nearly half way to Christmas" party!! With that said, **I have reserved the Banquet Room at Glory Days, 3141 Duke St, for the May meeting from 6–10PM.** Come early and enjoy a good meal and then we will conduct a short meeting to service any open issues or hot topics that need to be addressed and then we'll go right back to the chinwag session.

Please RSVP to comms@gallagher.us.com so I can get an idea on the attendance and prepare the staff. Ordering will be off the menu to keep things simple. The banquet room only holds 40 people give or take, so get those RSVPs in and include the number of folks you have attending. This would also be a great session to bring in prospective members if you have some candidates.

We are still in the middle of strengthening our club administrative functions to include both the financial sector and records management sector, with a focus on transitioning as much of our current paper records to digits, which will live in a secured cloud storage account, accessible to club members. This would also include an accurate copy of our Club roster.

We are looking within the club for members familiar with current information technology applications for records management. Basically, we would still process electronic applications and Paypal transfers as before and continue to process paper checks through the credit union but the applications and renewals received on paper

would be scanned/filed in a cloud-based storage container. We would like for this process to be as simple, efficient, and easy as possible so we don't create any undue burden for our Secretary and Treasurer. Please let me know if you can assist us with this effort.

In addition to transitioning current paper-based transactions, I have recently accepted stewardship of our Club historical records collected over the last 70 years. As you already know, paper decays over time despite the best attempts to preserve it, so in a parallel effort I would like to get this Club history transitioned to digits for future ARC generations. We will need to identify the resources needed (scanners & software) for this **Save History** effort and then find some volunteers to run the process as time permits. The bottom line here is that the more assistance we can get to develop the processes and get them in place where they can essentially become an automatic process under the guidance of the Secretary and Treasurer, the quicker we will be able to put focus on the more important and fun topics.

OK, now that the hard part of this message is out of the way, let's get started on those shopping lists for Dayton!! At last count, I think I saw about a dozen ARC members intending to go. I will be joining that august collection of members, attending this year for the first time. Yes. A Dayton Virgin! I'm sure our hamfest veterans will be appropriately merciless on me as I go through my Dayton indoctrination but that's how you grow and it's all in fun anyway. I'm looking forward to it! If you're thinking about going, now is the time to take the plunge. Let me know if you need assistance with your arrangements. You'll need a Hamfest ticket (online), a ride and a place to stay near Xenia Ohio.

See ya On the Air!!

73, **Sean** K4KBBK

Thanks from the Ballyshaners

Dear, Sean.

Now that the chaos and excitement has died down, I wanted to reach out to thank you and the Alexandria Radio Club for your support and hard work. The 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade was a huge success because of the hard work and contributions of dedicated volunteers, including your team.

In 2023, we struggled with communication issues that resulted in difficulty keeping the line-up straight and appropriately announcing groups from the grandstand. I was not looking forward to dealing with those issues again in 2024 and was not sure how I would conquer the problems...and then along came the Alexandria Radio Club to save the day!

The expertise, professionalism and helpfulness of your group were invaluable. The ARC members worked side-by-side with the Ballyshaners, always there to provide support and guidance. We truly enjoyed your participation, and we thank you for helping make the 2024 St. Patrick's Day Parade a successful event and great day for the Alexandria community!

Forever Grateful,

Christine McClarin

(Former Ballyshaners Chair and Forever Friend)

Member News

Congratulations to

New Technician **William “Skip” Dronen, KQ4QKO**

Total Eclipse Photos by Club Members



Alex Lammers, KO4ZMC, and Sandy Kenyon, K14DNE, went to Texas to photograph the April 8 total eclipse of the Sun. Left: the solar flare recorded by Alex. Above: Sandy's camera view.

Activities and Events

Hamfests:

- April 13, Thawfest II, sponsored by the Greene County Virginia ARC, Ruckersville, VA. <https://gcvarc.net/thawfest-flyer/>
- April 20, Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo, ARRL Delaware State Convention, sponsored by the Sussex Amateur Radio Association, Georgetown, DE. <http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com>

- April 21, Maryland Mobileers Spring Hamfest, Odenton, MD.
<https://sites.google.com/view/marylandmobileers/hamfest>
- May 4, The Great Hagerstown Hamfest, sponsored by the Antietam Radio Association, Maugensville, MD.
<https://antietamradio.org/events/hamfest>
- May 17-19, Hamvention 2024, Dayton, OH.
<https://hamvention.org/>



Contests:

- April 13-14, New Mexico QSO Party, www.newmexicoqsoparty.org
 - April 13-14, Georgia QSO Party, gaqsoparty.com
 - April 20-21, Nebraska QSO Party, nebraskaqsoparty.com
 - April 20-21, Texas State Parks on the Air, www.tspota.org
 - April 20-21, Michigan QSO Party, miqp.org
 - April 20-21, Ontario QSO Party, www.va3cco.com/oqp/index.htm
 - April 20-21, North Dakota, www.ndarrlsection.com
 - April 20-21, Quebec QSO Party, wp1.quebecqsoparty.org
 - April 20-21, Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest, www.mulandxc.com
 - April 27-28, Florida QSO Party, floridaqsoparty.org
- (Selected from ARRL Contest Calendar www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)

Special Events:

- April 13, Commemorating USS Midway conducting first airship ops on CV. <https://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw>
 - April 18, World Amateur Radio Day. <https://www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day>
 - April 27, International Marconi Day Award Station, Baltimore, MD, Nuclear Ship Savanna ARC. www.qrz.com/db/k3s
 - May 11, Commemorating Armed Forces Day, San Diego, CA, USS Midway Museum Ship. www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw
 - May 11, Jamestown Landing Day Event, Williamsburg, VA, Williamsburg Area ARC. <https://www.k4rc.net/events/special-event-stations/>
- (Selected from ARRL Special Event Page www.arrl.org/special-event-stations)

Alexandria Radio Club Date Book

Coming Events

May 17–19: Hamvention, Dayton, OH

June 2: Alexandria's D-Day Commemoration, Market Square (ARC Exhibition Table)

June 22-23: Field Day, Chinquapin Park

October 27: Marine Corps Marathon

ARES – Rick, N4ASX

A few items this month:

We have a NEW Assistant Emergency Coordinator (AEC), **Joe Kalfa, KD2HZG**. Joe has completed all the requirements for ARES Level III in the task book and will start the transition to the EC job later this year. I will still be active after the transition, but I expect that Joe with the help of our 25 volunteers will continue to support ARES in Alexandria.



Field Day is coming up FAST! Not only is this a fun contest but Field Day is primarily a TEST of how Amateur Radio can support in a disaster that has taken away the basic infrastructure that supports normal operations. No permanent antennas, no commercial power, and away from the comforts of a home station. This is a great event to learn more about HF radio. Many new hams are happy with their handheld radios, but there is a great deal to learn and great rewards in the High Frequency (HF) part of the hobby. While much of our support to served agencies is on VHF and UHF, one only has to look at hurricanes, and other widespread disasters to see that line-of-sight may not cover all the needs. Field Day is June 22-24. The Alexandria Radio Club will be set up as last year, at Chinquapin Park next to the Alexandria City High School. I'm sure more details will be sent out on this. You don't need a station (many will be set up), but you may want to support one. While the event lasts from Saturday morning

to Sunday afternoon, you do not need to be there all the time, you can come out to help set up, operate for a few hours and/or help with take down and clean up.

I hope to hold one of the first in many years, ARES meetings in late May. I need to find a venue or maybe we will meet in a park. We will get a chance to review ARES membership, operations, and training. I hope to have some speakers from our supported agencies.

Lastly, with a club of over 100, we need more volunteers. As some of us get up in age, we need younger volunteers who are willing to step in when a disaster hits. The only thing that's important is that you participate in public service events or training events and be ready if there is a need.

73, **Rick** N4ASX

Next Meeting

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, April 12, at the Alexandria Police Department Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

Last Meeting

Date: **March 8, 2024**

Time: **1900 hours**

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Checking: \$1,824.99
- Savings: \$8,320.35
- Trailer Share: \$729.02
- Education Share: \$2,356.26
- PayPal Share: \$394.16
- TOTAL: \$13,624.78

Highlights of the meeting included:

- A moment of silence for Bob Heil, K9EID (SK), founder of Heil Ham Radio, who passed away at the age of 83.

- A presentation by Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, on data- and information-sharing programs being considered for club communication.
- Goals and Objectives for 2024
 - **Membership Committee**
 - Create more opportunities for member interaction through public events (parades, public comm demos) and Amateur Radio events such as POTA and a series of member-hosted functional demonstrations (QRP / battery / solar), antenna rigging and tuning and demonstrations of field kit such as shelters, survival gear etc.
 - Establish more frequent social activities such as monthly breakfasts or **Picnics in the Park with POTA** or similar. Extend invites to work across multiple area clubs to share the “goodness”!
 - Improve member participation in club Committee activities. Most everyone has an interest or a specialty and can contribute to committee efforts at some level.
 - **Administrative Committee**
 - Establish internal processes to support the administrative functions of the club specifically in member processing, club roster management and the establishment of secure online archive for all club records. Paper records would be scanned and stored in secure online archive. Eliminates current defect of having critical club documents housed on the hard drives of current club officers where the club loses control and access once that officer moves out of his/her current position. Supports centralized storage of and controlled access to critical club documents in an environment that is routinely backed up.
 - **Finance Committee**
 - Establish better fiscal management process to extend club financial planning across a wider horizon than the current annual budget process allows. This would involve a club inventory of gear (in use and stored) coupled with a 5 year forecast, based on equipment lifespan, of what will need repair / replacement along with the projected costs for those activities. Currently there is no method in play to assess the current health and projected lifespan of our equipment such as our repeaters or our trailer.
- Reduce dependency on member dues to fund for club activities and programs. Currently the club depends exclusively on member dues (\$25/year) and small donations to fund club activities. In our current configuration we have no special status and are paying taxes on the small

amount of dues that we collect. Deliver and execute a plan that moves the club into a tax free / donation friendly tax structure. There are already several parties interested in making significant donations to our club but they must also be able to get credit for the contribution with our friends at the IRS.

Attendance (20)

Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Sandy	KQ4DNE	Richard	KW4UJ	Wilson	KM4KLLK
Erik	KI4BXU	Bob	KO4ZIK	Louis	KO4QVB
Scott	W6GOU	Jan	KB2LRX	Andrew	KI4THF
Ted	W9TCE	Pete	N2KFA	Jack	KE7VOU
Todd	KQ5T	Tim	KZ4TWB	Joe	KT3I
Bjorn	KC3AOO	Don	KI4D	Aaron	K6hlc
Sean	K4KBK			Skip	KQ4QKO

PLEASE USE OUR REPEATERS

Club Repeaters: 147.315+ (PL 107.2), 444.6+ (PL107.2), 224.82- (PL107.2), 53.130- (PL107.2) 927.600 (-25Mhz, PL107.2), and 1282.600- (PL 107.2), DSTAR 145.380Mhz, 442.060+, and 1284.600-; 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](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>

Club Leadership

Elected Officers for 2024 * †

Sean Gallagher, K4KBK—President

Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK

—Vice President

Carol Myers, KN4LLL—Secretary

Erik Misavage, KI4BXU—Treasurer

Elected Board of Directors, At Large* †

Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE

Joseph A. Porcelli, KT3I

Paul Cataldo, KQ4LJS

* Voting members of the leadership group are the elected officers and elected directors.

† 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 and a Director's position were filled by a special election at the February 9, 2024 meeting.

Committee Chairmen

Jan Maas, KB2LRX—Public Information Officer (PIO)

Gary Sessums, KC5QCN—Club Metro Area Liaison

Past Presidents/Life Members

Rich Adamy, KA4GFY (Life Member)

Rick Bunn, N4ASX (Life Member)

Marshall DeBerry, KI4MWP (Life Member)

Ted Einersen, W9TCE

Harry Jones, N4CWP (Life Member)

Ian Keith, N8IK

Tom Kirby, KJ4FUU

Don Lewis, KI4D

Richard Morani, KW4UJ

Jim Stone, W4YUE

Larry Walker, K4LDW

Monica Wilson, KC2IAY

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)

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