



1954-2024 – 70th Anniversary



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
September 2024

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President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

By the time you read this, I should be just about ready to depart the land of my forefathers, the Emerald Isle. Yes, we slipped out to the UK and Ireland to celebrate Sue's retirement, which actually occurred in 2019 but was upended by COVID. She actually worked for the past 12 months to put

this trip together and I am simply the bag man. I do plan on taking an ID52 with me to see if I can connect to the Wednesday night net via the reflector, presuming I can convince some of those nice Celtic people to allow me to link their repeater to 62B! Hopefully, I won't create an international incident!

In my absence, our Vice President **Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK**, will be officiating the September meeting and he's already busy pulling together an important guest presentation so please support him with your presence. I won't reveal the details but you won't be disappointed.

I'm a little dismayed that I haven't heard any feedback from the membership on any **recognition event for our 70th year of operation**. The event doesn't have to be big or flashy but I do think we owe it to ourselves to celebrate our history and be recognized by some of our area colleagues and government leadership. Bueller? Bueller? Anyone? Please send me some feedback on this topic ASAP. Thanks!

I see from recent emails that our Net Control Chair, **Brian Pettigrew, WD4ADF**, has issued notice that he is willing and ready to train some new net controllers. Are you up to the task? It's not hard to do and can really be entertaining with all the verbal jousting between service rivals and the appearance new member nick-named HAC. Never a dull moment! In all seriousness, we really do need to increase our number of available Net Controllers as we begin to approach the season where folks will be travelling for the holidays! I know we have the talent out there waiting in the wings that just need a little push. So here it is. Time to step up. Your Club needs you!

Comments and questions are always welcome. Cheers!

73 to All, Sean, K4KBK - comms@gallagher.us.com

Member News

Welcome New Member

Larry Corcoran, KQ4SBC

Activities and Events



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

MCM26.2
MARINE CORPS MARATHON

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MARINE CORPS MARATHON

MARINE CORPS MARATHON
AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS

Seeking operators for the premier, national, amateur radio, sports volunteering opportunity!

For most, the only requirement is a VHF/UHF radio, a sense of duty, the a willingness to have fun, and don't forget your shirt size for the courtesy Marine Corps shirt.

You must register on both sites:

- 1) marinemarathon.com/volunteer
- 2) hamvolunteers.com

Photo/Design: K3MRI / Printing courtesy of Ham Community

MCM Key dates

Radio Test Day: Monday, October 14, 2024

All Hands Training Event: Saturday, October 19, 2024 at the Armed Forces Retirement Home

MCM Race Day: Sunday, October 27, 2024

More info at hamvolunteers.com/MCM

Got Ideas or Questions for Hands-on-Training? Let Us Know

Plans are in the works for hands-on-training sessions covering a range of technical topics. The idea is to learn while completing your own projects, or learning a new skill or operating mode.

Suggested topics (with additional comments by ARC life member **Tim O'Neill, K2KT**):

- **HF Dipole Building Workshop.** (First part can be a classroom presentation on basic antenna theory. Hands-on part is designing and building a simple and effective HF wire dipole for portable or home use.)
- **Coax Cables and Connectors.** (I can first do a presentation on coaxial cables and connectors and offer guidance on what to buy. <https://rfconnection.com/> is a good source of quality Amphenol connectors and Belden or Times Microwave coaxial cable. Members can order and build short jumpers or long cables for home.)
- **Soldering and Kit Building.** (Some kit ideas: \$30 kit: Foxhunt Offset Attenuator eBay. \$40 kit: Open CW keyer MK2 KIT (K1EL Winkeyer clone) eBay. \$150 kit: <https://www.qrp-labs.com/> QMX+ 160-6m multi-mode transceiver.)
- **Mobile Radio Installations.** (I can teach a class on the topic while using someone's car that needs an installation, and we can look at members' radio installations.)
- **Reading Schematic Diagrams.** (Can be combined with #6.)
- **Multimeter Use and Basic Troubleshooting.** (With #5, hands-on use of the multimeter and basic troubleshooting techniques.)
- **Tape Measure Yagi for 2m Direction Finding, or ISS contact.** (A construction project that uses a metal tape measurer and PVC pipe parts from Home Depot or Lowes. Coax cable and connector can be built in #2.)
- **Foxhunt.** (Starts off with a classroom presentation to discuss theory and practical methods. The foxhunt is an outdoor activity using a hidden transmitter and members using direction finding equipment. Various types

are available. Simplest is the Yagi and offset attenuator built in #3 and #7.) (Another comment: For outreach and club growth, involve Scouts working toward a merit badge.)

- **Programming Handheld Radios with Chirp Software.** (Chirp is a free software to program many handheld radios like Baofeng, Yaesu, Kenwood, and ICOM brands plus more.)

Other topics? Let us know what you're interested in.

Help Scouts at Jamboree-on-the-Air, October 19

Gary Sessums, KC5QCN—a member of both ARC and Arlington Amateur Radio Club (AARC)—has invited us to join Arlington in hosting a field exercise as part of the Boy Scouts Annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA).

The event will be part of the monthly POTA event that AARC runs at the **Columbia Island Marina**, off George Washington Memorial Parkway. Date and time: **Saturday, 19 October, from 0800-1400 hrs.** Parking is plentiful and a full-scale restaurant with bathroom facilities is available as a part of the marina.

Anyone in the Alexandria Radio Club who has connections with any of the scouting groups—Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts, etc.—can invite them to participate, singly or as a group. Once we have some feedback on numbers of potential attendees, we will coordinate with Gary on the number and type of stations we will need to setup.

A couple of stations from the members of the Alexandria Radio Club in addition to the two or three that Gary normally sets up will probably be sufficient.

Please let ARC President **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, know how many scouting groups may be interested. Sean will identify a point of contact for this event once he gets feedback.

Painters Pole Antenna Gets It Done



Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, was one of the ARC crew that greeted visitors at our table at the National Night Out event held on August 6 in Del Ray. Gary demonstrated how to mount an antenna on a painter's pole, explaining that it was a great way to get height in a parking lot, or where buildings obstruct line-of-sight. Thanks to the antenna, the ARC hams were able to send emails to visitors' cell phones, using Winlink, through a repeater in National Harbor.

Skywarn® Class September 18

Fairfax is holding a Skywarn® program Basic class to become a Skywarn Spotter. The class is free.

Date: Wednesday, September 18

Time: 6 pm - 8 pm

Where: Fairfax Public Safety Headquarters

12099 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035

Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrIYbQ19zOpqvIR_MzyNIz3FFQLEL7fnEPt4cYjWYS6Qtkg/viewform

Description: A National Weather Service meteorologist will teach you how to recognize features associated with developing, mature, and dissipating thunderstorms which cause hazardous weather such as lightning, flooding, hail, tornadoes and downbursts. You will also learn about winter weather and tropical hazards.

For other NOAA Classes, or for further information, please visit [NWS Baltimore/Washington SKYWARN® \(weather.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov)

Contests:

- **Sept.21-22, New Jersey QSO Party.** <http://www.k2td-bcrc.org>
- **Sept. 21, Iowa QSO Party.** <http://www.w0yl.com>
- **Sept. 21-22, Texas QSO Parth.** <http://www.txqp.net>
- **Sept. 21-22, ARRL EME Contest.** <https://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>
- **Sept. 21, Wisconsin Parks on the Air.** <https://www.wipota.com>
- **Sept. 21-22, New Hampshire QSO Party.** <https://www.w1wqm.org>
- **Sept. 28-29, Maine QSO Party.** <http://www.ws1sm.com>

(Selected from ARRL Contest Calendar www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)

Alexandria Radio Club Date Book

Coming Events

Friday, September 20, 1-4 pm: Alexandria Preparedness Fair, Market Square

Saturday, October 19, 8 am to 2 pm: Jamboree on-the-Air, Columbia Island Marina (jointly with Arlington Amateur Radio Club)

October 27: Marine Corps Marathon

Next Meeting

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, September 13, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

Last Meeting

Date: August 9, 2024

Time: 1900 hours

Location: Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center
Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

Minutes: — Jack York, KE7VOU, Secretary

1. 16 members were present at the meeting location of the Alexandria City Police Department at 3600 Wheeler Avenue and 6 members participated in the online Zoom meeting.
2. A presentation on Tools for Emergency Management and Communications at the website <https://kq4dne.com> was made by Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE.
3. The treasurer reported a total balance of \$13,305.33 in club accounts with a total of 133 paid members. A cellular data bill of \$46.91 was paid on August 6th. Ian Keith, N8IK, submitted a new member application and membership dues payment check.
4. Jack York, KE7VOU, summarized the secretary's report for the July 12th meeting.
5. Committee reports started with a request from Richard Morani, KW4UJ, for instructors to teach classes in the club's fall license courses. KB2LRX, Jan Maas, published the latest version of ARC-SHORTS on the club website earlier in the week. Bryan Pettigrew, WD4ADF, needs additional net control operators for Wednesday and Thursday radio nets especially in September. Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE, and Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, are evaluating the results of club's 2024 Field Day outing and planning the next one in 2025.
6. For the upcoming September 2024 club meeting, scheduled activities include the solicitation of volunteers for the October 2024 Marine Corps Marathon and a presentation on radio state grounding and bonding. Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ, will do these two scheduled activities.
7. Louie Mingo, KO4QVB, is still collecting funds for the club hat order.

8. New events proposed for the future include Winlink Wednesday by Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, and a random wire with balun antenna topic for an Elmer building project workshop.

9. Topics for an Elmer workshop as a potential future club activity were discussed that include HF dipole building, coax cables and connectors, soldering and kit building, mobile radio installations, reading schematic diagrams, multimeter use and basic troubleshooting, tape measure Yagi for 2m direction finding, foxhunt, and programming handheld radios with chirp software.

Attendance (**16 in person**, **6 remotely**)

Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Sean	K4KBK	Jay	KV3W	Erik	KI4BXU
Bob	KO4ZIK	Sandy	KQ4DNE	Don	KI4D
Jack	KE7VOU	John	KE4JEM	Brian	KE4WGY
Ted	W9TCE	Skip	KO2THF	Corey	KN4YZY
Ian	N8IK	Ed	K4ESC	Bryan	WD4ADF
Wilson	KM4KLLK	Scott G	KM4RDR	Gene	N4JEE
Jan	KB2LRX	Paul	KQ4LJS		
Richard	KW4UJ				
Pete	N2KFA				

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

Jack York, KE7VOU—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. †† Carol Myers, KN4LLL, resigned as Secretary in May, 2024. Jack York, KE7VOU, was elected at the June 14 meeting.

Committee Chairmen

Jan Maas, KB2LRX—Public Information
Officer (PIO)

Gary Sessums, KC5QCN—Club Metro
Area Liaison

Club Leadership Group members may be contacted using the following email addresses:

<mailto:president@w4hfh.org> president@w4hfh.org

<mailto:vice-president@w4hfh.org> vice-president@w4hfh.org

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