



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
January 2025

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The scene at our Holiday Party. Good food. Good fellowship. Awards handed out. Gifts exchanged. (More photos below.) PHOTO BY GARY NIKI, KC7TNU

President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025!

We're at the beginning of a brand-new year in the Alexandria Radio Club and looking forward to new challenges and new opportunities. This year, in addition to our already scheduled activities, we plan to provide more member services focused on various **technical tasks** such as soldering, reading schematics, building antennas, multi-meter use and trouble-shooting, as well as providing **antenna installation support** through site surveys, antenna selection options and installation of antennas at the member QTH. More on the establishment of the Antenna Team to follow.

We anticipate streamlining some of the club administrative processes including establishment of a relational database to capture all member data, the process of paying dues (paper and plastic) and the development of a paperless records-keeping process that is secured but accessible and able to be passed on to future Club administrations as an organized package.

As **POTA** is all the rage these days, we will be appointing a lead to organize our club POTA efforts and liaison with other local clubs to put on joint POTA events.

We will also be forming an **Emergency Communications Division** to help organize, equip and train club members in the programming and use of handi-talkie radios, selection of support gear, building of “go-bag” builds, use of Simplex radio mode, understanding and use of repeaters, operation of field deployed generators and related wiring systems, and basic training in the protocols of operating in emergency environment. Some external online study will also be strongly encouraged.

We have some upcoming events to support, specifically **Winter Field Day, the George Washington Parade and the St Patrick’s Day parade**, so we will be soliciting volunteers to support these efforts.

Now, last but most importantly, we need to hear from you, the members. Tell us what’s on your mind. Engage! Talk to your department chairs, Directors, and Officers. Help improve the Club and maybe learn a bit more in the process. If you engage but don’t get a response, please let me know directly.

Thanks for all you do!

73,

Sean, K4KBK

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.

Alexandria Radio Club Date Book

Coming Events

Saturday & Sunday, January 25 & 26: Winter Field Day, QTH TBA

Saturday, February 15: George Washington Birthday Parade, Old Town

Saturday, March 1: Ballyshaners St. Patrick's Day Parade, Old Town

ARES

Joe Kalfa (KD2HZG)

Going into 2025, I wanted to throw some goals I would personally like to see happen related to ARES and EmComm, while some of them may be a stretch, based on what I've seen from the club I have no doubt you all can help make them happen.



- More W4HFH membership involvement. Ultimately ARC is the only club in Alexandria, so it will be almost exclusively ARC members who make the ARES program successful. We cannot do it without you. If you have ideas, or specific things you would like to see happen, please reach out and I will ensure I do whatever it takes to make you successful in those areas. If you are interested in ARES or EmComm, reach out to us today to learn more.

ARES Learning Corner!

Do you have a concept that is important for EmComm you'd like to teach others about or learn about?

This month we are going to talk about the importance of **scanners** and the difference between scanning and searching.

I'm sure some of you are aware that some ham radio have scan or search functions right? Do you use these functions often? I've found that I try to limit

my transceivers to scanning known working frequencies I may communicate on, while I may want another device to search for new frequencies or may be doing a blanket service search looking for any activity while I'm in a new area or traveling. Does anyone have an SDR that they use for scanning or searching?

A good use for a scanner in the context of ARES is monitoring other radio services (FRS/GMRS, MURS, CB) after a hurricane or other natural disaster so that if people in distress find a radio or pull out a family member's radio in an attempt to get help, you can hear them and attempt to respond to them or relay that they need help.

Some critical skills that go hand and hand with using scanners are Direction Finding (DFing or also called Fox Hunting), knowing and programming CTCSS or PL tones, knowing common service channel offsets, and designing antennas for broadband use or narrowband use with or without directional properties.

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/156329803301> Here is an example of good entry level scanner (note this is a used listing as this model has been discontinued.)

Joe, KD2HZG

Member News

Antenna Team Begins Work

The Alexandria Radio Club is forming a new working group called the Antenna Team. Experienced hams will come to a member's QTH and evaluate the site for the best placement of antennas, installation, and other factors.

Last month, **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, and **Joe Porcelli, KT3I**, came to the home of Jan Maas, KB2LRX, to hang a 110-ft. end-fed antenna from the back yard to a tree in front. They installed a ground rod and a coax feed to Jan's HF rig.

Members may contact Sean to arrange a site visit.



Licensing and SKYWARN® Classes

Extra Class through National Electronics Museum

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 16, 2025, and will run through Thursday, March 27. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. Sessions will be recorded. Those attending should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

Thanks. 73, Rol Anders, K3RA

Technician Class in Fairfax

In conjunction with the Northern Virginia FM Association (NVFMA), the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department is hosting a Ham Radio class for the Technician license, starting on Tuesday, January 28 and running for 8 weeks. Sessions begin at 1900. Students should attend all sessions. On the weekend of March 22nd, they will have the opportunity to take the Technician Exam.

The Classes will take place at the Fire and Rescue Academy, 4600 West Ox Rd., Fairfax. The March 22nd testing session will be held at the Dunn Loring VFD, 2148 Gallows Rd, Dunn Loring, VA.

There is a \$15 class fee that will be due on the first night of class. This fee covers the materials used by the instructors and includes the test. Checks are to be made to the NVFMA. There is a book that will be used, information on how to order will be provided prior to the start of class.

Please register for the Class at

https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/190190

SKYWARN®

Do you have a passion for weather and a desire to help keep your community safe? Join the ranks of the 350,000+ trained SKYWARN® volunteers across the nation by becoming a SKYWARN® spotter!

Every year, severe weather like thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flooding impact thousands of lives and cause billions in damages. SKYWARN® volunteers play a vital role by providing the National Weather Service (NWS) with real-time, accurate reports of severe weather, complementing Doppler radar and satellite data. Your efforts could provide your community with critical minutes that save lives.

Why Become a SKYWARN® Spotter?

- Learn to identify severe weather hazards and report them to NWS.
- Gain knowledge in thunderstorm development, storm structure, and safety.
- Help protect your family, neighbors, and community with your observations.

Who Can Join?

Anyone with an interest in public service is welcome! Whether you're a first responder, educator, utility worker, or private citizen, your role can make a difference. Individuals with responsibilities for schools, hospitals, or other community facilities are particularly encouraged to join.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

We're excited to offer two SKYWARN® training sessions in Fairfax County:

1. Basic SKYWARN® Training - February 11th, 2025 - This course is a prerequisite for all other courses. Basics I is a good general overview of what it means to be a spotter as well as the basics of the different weather phenomenon that impacts the Mid-Atlantic. Upon completion of the course, you will be

registered in the program by the NWS. You will receive a spotter code from the NWS within 6 weeks.

Training in Basics I includes:

- The Basic Organization of the National Weather Service
- The Role and Importance of the Skywarn Spotter
- Reporting of Hazardous Weather
- NWS Products and the Watch/Warning/Advisory system
- Thunderstorm, Flooding, Tropical and Winter Weather Threats
- The Role of Amateur Short-wave (HAM) Radio in the Spotter Program

Basics:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX3JCTKIyD8S_urUAu0IN6fdKXiLFvBx2ZxGCnR_U1fOHbBA/viewform

2. Advanced SKYWARN Training (Flooding Focus) - March 11th, 2025

Training in the Flood class is a good overview of flood threats in this area. It is intended for everyone who has already completed the basics course. The Flood class includes:

- Role of spotters & review of area
- What to report & how
- Types of Flooding
- Forecasting and Meteorology of Flooding
- Flooding Case Studies
- NWS products for flooding

Flood:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciZHxNvhlRjnz4GoIS7BfxPQ6K05V19hjHpUe1UqXmIMKLA/viewform>

Activities and Events

Holiday Party



ARC held its traditional Holiday Party on Dec. 13, at Glory Days Grill. A cake marked the celebration of our 70th anniversary. Awards were presented to Alex Lammers, KO4ZMC, Jack York, KE7VOU, Erik Misavage, KI4BXU, Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE, Joe Porcelli, KT3I, Ian Keith, N8IK, Jan Maas, KB2LRX, Jason Palma, WA6MPR, Richard Morani, KW4UJ, Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, Bryan Pettigrew, WD4ADF, and Skip Dronen, KO2THF.

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.

Next Meeting

Friday, January 10, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

Last Meeting

Date: December 13, 2024

Time: 1900 hours

Location: Glory Days Grill, 3141 Duke Street, Alexandria

1. The Alexandria Radio Club held its Annual Holiday meeting on December 13th at the Glory Days restaurant on Duke Street. 24 members signed in and were present for the December meeting.
2. According to Erik Misavage, KI4BXU, reported 76 paid members, 8 living life members and 2 members with outstanding dues as of December 3, 2024.
3. Awards were presented to Alex Lammers, KO4ZMC, Jack York, KE7VOU, Erik Misavage, KI4BXU, Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE, Joe Porcelli, KT3I, Ian Keith, N8IK, Jan Maas, KB2LRX, Jason Palma, WA6MPR, Richard Morani, KW4UJ, Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, Bryan Pettigrew, WD4ADF, and Skip Dronen, KO2THF.
4. Meeting attendees also enjoyed a cake celebrating the club's 70th anniversary.

Please refer all comments and questions on this report to:

Jack York

Secretary, Alexandria Radio Club

x3unix1@cox.net

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 2025 *

Sean Gallagher, K4K BK—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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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