



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
February 2025

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Setting up for Winter Field Day:
(from right) Sean K4KBK, Gary
KC5QCN, Aaron K6HLC, Stex
K4IEW. More photos below.

President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

Happy Valentines Day!

We're half way through February with Spring right around the corner.

We are in our busy time of year with inauguration support and a field exercise complete and two parades on the near team calendar. With the weather continually improving for late March and April, it's time to get those POTA stations uncovered and ready for action in the field.

On Friday night, 14 February, we will be conducting our February meeting of the Alexandria Radio Club. At this session, we will have a featured presentation

on the 2025 VA QSO Party by **Gordon Miller**, NQ4K. So come and hear what the 2024 results were and what changes are in store for 2025.

On Saturday, 15 February, the ARC will be again supporting the GW Parade Committee to run the **2025 GW Parade in Old Town Alexandria**. We have a solid group of volunteers to make this all happen but we encourage the rest of the members and their families to “Come on Down” and observe the Parade Team in action. While we are fully staffed for the GW Parade Support task at this time, we still have some volunteer openings in the **St. Patrick’s Day Parade** support team so please come join us for some active HT radio fun on 01 March in Old Town Alexandria. Email me at President@W4HFH.org if you have questions.

If you didn’t attend the **Winter Field Day** this year, you missed a good one. Attendance was at an all-time high and judging by the comments, everyone got something positive out of the that outing. This year, we had our own ARES lead, **Joe Kalfa**, KD2HZG, displaying and demonstrating all kinds of amateur radio antennas and conducting a hands-on antenna build for one of our members who couldn’t find commercially what he needed. Joe had his audience absolutely spellbound. Thanks Joe! Additional details and photos for this event are in our Club newsletter which is produced monthly by our own Jan Maas, KB2LRX. Thanks Jan!

I will end this month’s column here but would like to reinforce my view that the most important element of this Club is its members. We would like to hear from you on things you’d like the Club to do in the future, on things we’ve done well or perhaps things that need attention. Tell us what’s on your mind. Engage! Discord is good for highlight issues or rolling discussions but emails or phone calls are best to provide a better level of detail on an issue. Talk to other members, team leads, 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 continued support!

73,

Sean, K4KBK

Alexandria Radio Club Date Book

Coming Events

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

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

Saturday and Sunday, March 15 and 16: Virginia QSO Party

ARES

Joe Kalfa (KD2HZG)

I hope everyone got a chance to get on the air during Winter Field Day, even if just from home.

This month's nets will be on Vara-HF for the 1st, 3rd, and 4th weekends and JS8Call on the 2nd weekend, you can use VARA Terminal to connect, on 07.1032 USB, to station KD2HZG-2 for VARA weekends, and JS8Call 40m (07.078 USB). All net reminders will be going out via the new ARES listserv, if you regularly participate in ARES nets, events, or have desire to, please reach out to joek@26xx.org to get on that list.

From an equipment perspective I'd like to get your thoughts on bit of a culture shift. Traditionally when a ham gets their Tech license, the first radio they buy is an HT, complete with rubber duck and fragile SMA port. One thing I've discussed with a lot of folks interested in EmComm is the idea of buying a cheaper and smaller 25w or 50w mobile radio, along with a lifepo4 battery pack and rollup J-Pole antenna.

Doing this would allow for portable ops, mounting the antenna to a rucksack or hanging in a tree, and give you the ability to easily change the antenna based on need. Also, even at 25w, you are getting a significant boost over the 5w HT at full power (6-7db) before the gain of a better antenna, and the improved line of sight. I personally have tested the Vero NR-V7500 and the BTECH (ensure it's BTECH and not generic Baofeng) UV-25x4 and they work great. Figuring out a



pouch/ruck is going to be something a little bit more complicated and likely driven based off whatever task you are assigned to.

If you have any requests for training or drill ideas, please reach out, I'd love to hear from you!

ARES at Winter Field Day

On display for our Winter Field Day ARES Table were a variety of man-packable or portable antennas. We had several varieties of coil loaded antennas, to include Wolf River Coil SB1000 TIA, Ham sticks configured as verticals and horizontal dipoles (courtesy of Sandy), Buddipole coil loaded whips configured in a otophone/vee (courtesy of Joe P) and chelegance MC-750 (courtesy of Todd) which was unique in its use of fixed band coils.

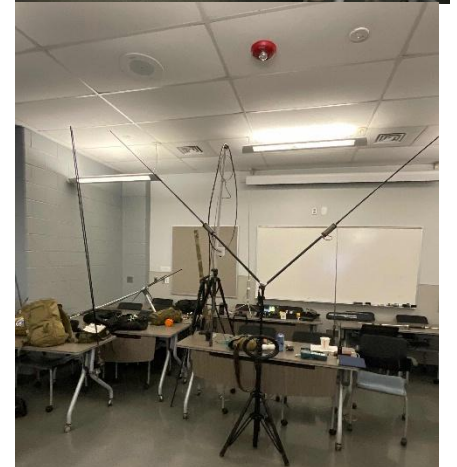
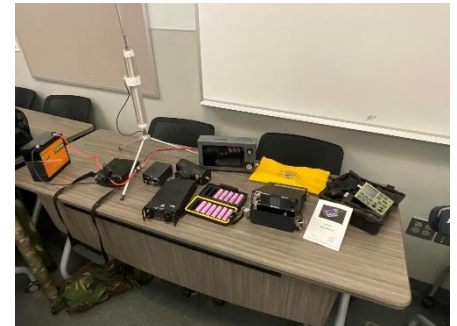
Also we had multiple varieties of magloop antennas, including the Alex Loop (courtesy of Joe P), the lower priced OM0ET magloop, and the alpha antenna magloop.

Several people participated in an antenna building exercise where we built a 2m 450ohm J-Pole for hams who may be in geographically low areas or looking to use HTs indoors.

In addition to our antenna display, we also had several QRP man-packable HF radios for use and demos, along with numerous power options ranging from 20ah Lifepo4 batteries to small hotswappable cases for 18650s.

If you are interested in seeing these again, don't hesitate to reach out, we can setup a similar display at Summer Field Day.

Joe, KD2HZG



Member News

Winter Field Day

The Alexandria Radio Club operated on Winter Field Day weekend, Saturday, Jan. 25 to Sunday, Jan. 26, out of Alexandria Fire Station 210, on Eisenhower Ave. The event is similar to the annual Field Day, held every June, but designed to test hams' ability to set up for emergencies in cold weather.

Members set up antennas, radio gear, and logging software, and made numerous contacts in different modes. There was also lots of sociable ham talk and advice, and a demonstration of ARES equipment by Joe Kalfa, KD2HZG. (See above for details.)

Listed below are those who took part.

Q4DNE	Sandy Kenyon
KQ4YGT	Ed MacDonald
KJ5BES	Chris Stephens
KB2LRX	Jan Maas
KQ4SBC	Larry Corcoran
K6HLC	Aaron Kahn
K4IEW	Stefan Fonda
KT3I	Joe Porcelli
KC5QCN	Gary Sessums
KO4ZMC	Alex Lammers
W4JJ	Jack Parker
KI4THF	Andrew Davnie-Easton
KO4ZIK	Robert Crumley
KV3W	Jay Orbin
N8IK	Ian Keith
K2KT	Tim O'Neal
KI4D	Don Lewis
KQ4ZCO	Austin Kolb
KD2HZG	Joe Kalfa
KO2THF	Skip Dronen
K4KBK	Sean Gallagher



Pictured, clockwise from upper left: Aaron Kahn, K6HLC, and Stex Fonda, K4IEW, Joe Porcelli's (KT3I) antenna for satellite contacts; Aaron Kahn and Alex Lammers, KO4ZMC; Gary Sessums, KC5QCN.

ARC at HamCation®



Several ARC members traveled to ARRL's HamCation® at Orlando, FL, Feb. 7-9. Pictured, left, on a side trip to the Kennedy Space Center: Rich, KA4GFY, Ted, W9TCE, Ian, N8IK, and Jay, KV3W. In the right photo, Sandy, KQ4DNE, meets up with Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, former head of FEMA, and a long-time ARC member and supporter.

Activities and Events

Hamfests:

- March 9, Winterfest, sponsored by the Vienna Wireless Society, Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, Virginia, 22181. <https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest/>

Contests:

- March 8-9, Idaho QSO Party, the Spud Run. <http://www.idahoqsoparty.org>
- March 9-10, Wisconsin QSO Party. <http://www.warac.org>
(Selected from ARRL Contest Calendar www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)

Special Events:

- February 15-23, W7P, Pluto Discovery Anniversary Special Event. Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, AZ. <https://www.qrz.com/db/w7p> or <https://www.nadxa.com>
(Selected from ARRL Special Events Calendar <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

Next Meeting

Friday, February 14, 1900 hours, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue. Featuring: Gordon Miller, NQ4K, previewing the Virginia QSO Party (March 15 and 16).

Last Meeting

Date: January 10, 2025

Time: 1900 hours

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

1. For the January 10th meeting of the Alexandria Amateur Radio Club, 27 people were in attendance with 23 people in-person and 4 people participating in the online zoom meeting.
2. Club Secretary, Jack York, KE7VOU, gave a summary of the December 2024 club meeting minutes.
3. In the treasurer's report from Richard Morani, KW4UJ, the total balance of all accounts is \$13,678 with December 2024 expenses paid on items such as cellular data and Field Day 2024 food and supplies. December income was received from items such as 50-50 proceeds and membership dues. In addition, the treasurer also gave summaries of the actual 2024 budget and the proposed 2025 budget.
4. Richard Morani, KW4UJ, reported 88 active members with current paid dues. The club will now request that members renew their annual dues by the end of January for each new calendar year.
5. Jan Maas, KB2LRX, gave a summary of the most recently published Arc-Shorts, the club monthly newsletter and a description of first completed task of the club's new antenna assistance team. The team's first project was to install and test a new antenna at KB2LRX's QTH. Don Lewis, K4ID, and Joe Porcelli, KT3I, were the primary contributors of the first antenna assistance team project.
6. Joe K., KD2HZG, club's Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) coordinator discussed the ARES email listserv and club's discord server. The completion of FEMA and ARRL classes including IS100, IS200, IS700, IS800 and EC-001 is encouraged to enhance participation in ARES

- training and disaster relief activities. Background checks will, most likely, be a future requirement for participation in ARES activities.
7. Richard Morani, KW4UJ, discussed upcoming spring 2025 technician level radio license class. Instructors are still needed for this upcoming class.
 8. Joe Porcelli, KT3I, recommended the use of sealed lead acid (SLA) batteries for use in the club's trailer instead of lithium-ion polymer batteries because of the SLA's greater ability to withstand greater ranges of fluctuation of outside temperatures.
 9. Richard Morani, KW4UJ, reported no problems with operation of the club's website and the start of the search for new website calendar software.
 10. Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, reported that future new nets will use the club's 70cm and 1.25meter analog repeaters.
 11. Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE, Robert Crumley, KO4ZIK, and Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, reported on 2025 Field Day preparations that included contacting the City of Alexandria for park use permits and the search for lower cost methods of providing food.
 12. Jan Maas, KB2LRX, and Joe Porcelli, KT3I, discussed holding Winter Field Day on January 25th and 26th at the City of Alexandria fire station on Duke Street. The ARRL has changed the Winter Field Day rules since last year.
 13. Don Lewis, K4ID, discussed the benefits of the club obtaining a 501c(3) non-profit tax status with the IRS. K4ID passed out two paper handout documents describing the benefits of the non-profit tax status and these documents are attached to these meeting minutes.
 14. Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, and Ian Keith, N8IK, discussed club support for the Presidential Inauguration on January 20th from home-based radio stations. The club's 70cm DMR repeater may be used to support Inauguration Day activities.
 15. Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, solicited for volunteers to support the two upcoming parades in Alexandria, Virginia: George Washington's Birthday on February 15th; and St Patrick's Day on March 1st.
 16. The club members approved the expenditure of \$700 in funds to begin the application process for IRS 501c(3) tax status with 14 votes in favor and 13 against. In addition, the club approved the proposed 2025 club budget.
 17. The club also approved contacting Sterling to obtain an information update on the 2025 Virginia QSO Party on March 15th and 16th.
 18. Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, is recruiting for a new hospital repeater location committee coordinator for new hospitals under construction in Alexandria and Springfield. In addition, another hospital for potential repeater location is in Lorton, Virginia.

19. Sean Gallagher, K4KBBK, introduced Claire C. Walker, KQ4SCJ, as the club's new membership coordinator.

20. Upcoming events include:

- a) Presidential Inauguration on January 20th.
- b) Winter Field Day at the City of Alexandria fire station on Duke Street on January 25th and 26th.
- c) Hamcation in Orlando, Florida from February 7th through the 9th.
- d) George Washington Birthday Parade in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia on February 15th.
- e) St. Patrick's Day Parade in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia on March 1st.
- f) Winterfest Hamfest held by Vienna Wireless on March 9th at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, Virginia, 22181.
- g) Virginia QSO Party on March 15th and 16th.

Please refer all comments and questions on this report to:

Jack York

Secretary, Alexandria Radio Club

x3unix1@cox.net

Recorded Attendance, January 10, 2025 (23 in person, 4 remotely)

Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Sean	K4KBBK	Wilson	KM4KLLK	Claire	KQ4SCJ
Bob	KO4ZIK	Chris	KJ5BES		
Jack	KE4VOU	Skip	KO2THF		
Richard	KW4UJ	Larry	KQ4SBC		
Ted	W9TCE	Jack	W4JJ		
Ian	N8IK	Joe K	KD2HZG	Erik	KI4BXU
Jay	KV3W	Joe P	KT3I	Sandy	KQ4DNE
Jan	KB2LRX	Bill	KQ4ZMS	Björn	KC3A00
Gary S	KC5QCN	Ralph	WRKM544	Gary N	KC7TNU
Todd	KQ5T	Ed	KQ4YGT		
Wade	KK1ZZ	Don	KI4D		

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, K4KBK—President

Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK

—Vice President

Jack York, KE7VOU—Secretary

Richard Morani, KW4UJ—Treasurer

Elected Board of Directors, At Large*

Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE

Joseph A. Porcelli, KT3I

Björn Jernuld—KC3AOO

* 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

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