



**1954-2024 – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



# ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club  
November 2024

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



Don Lewis, KI4D (r.), led a Radio Merit Badge class for Scouts at the Jamboree on the Air session, Oct. 19. Pictured (from left) are Tim Gifford, KO4VFP, Joe, Declan, and Caleb. All three earned the Badge. Story and more pictures below.

## President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

**W**elcome to Eastern Standard Time! Yes, here we are again with days getting shorter and temps getting colder. Before these changes get too far along, let's get out there and inspect our outside gear to include base pads, towers, mounts, cabling, insulators, terminators and all of your antenna elements. If you find something that needs to be serviced, it will be much easier to service it now before the snow and ice make an appearance. While you're at it, it wouldn't be a bad idea to get all those fan-choking dust bunnies out of the shack. Here's a kit available on Amazon similar to what I use that will fit domestic vacuum cleaners or small shop vacs with 1.25-inch hoses. The attachments are great for keyboards and getting into tight places on PCs, Radios, Amps, etc.

MaximalPower Mini/Micro Vacuum Cleaner Attachment Tool Kit 8 Pcs Set - \$13.62
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Last month, we conducted our first joint event with the Arlington Amateur Radio Club and the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club, and it was a great success. The event was a combined **Parks on the Air (POTA) and Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** event which supported members activating / hunting POTA QSOs and an opportunity for the Scouts to get on the air to complete requirements for a Radio Merit badge. Three scouts were able to complete their requirements for the badge at this event. We setup multiple HF stations with different antennas as well as a VHF/UHF station supporting local communications and WINLINK demonstrations. The setting for the event was at the Columbia Island Marina, a facility with plenty of parking immediately adjacent to the radio operations area, restrooms and a small restaurant for burgers, crab cakes and pretty much anything else you might like to enjoy. The food is actually very good and the prices aren't bad either. This setup is a winner and we look forward to future joint POTA type events with the Arlington Amateur Radio Club at this location.

October also brought us the 49th running of the **Marine Corp Marathon**. Nearly a dozen ARC members volunteered to support amateur radio operations for this year's Marine Corp Marathon. Arriving to check-in at 3AM, I picked up my gallon Ziploc of snacks/water, an MRE, an event shirt and a wristband and drove off to Water Point 12. Despite a few challenges with local law enforcement's ability to tell time, I arrived unscathed at my assigned location at 0340 and began to assemble the radios that I would need for the event. Within the hour, the Marines from 8th and I arrived to begin setup of tables and

distribute the cases of cups while awaiting the Walmart tractor trailer hauling the water. Apparently there had been some sort of traffic issue on the road between the water warehouse and the Pentagon which caused the water to run late, so we waited. I made my introductions to the Marine lead for Water Point 12, a Marine Major, and then settled in to wait for the 0630 roll call. As the weather was perfect and one of our other members was basically just around the bend in North Parking, I sauntered over early to check-in with him. He was all setup with radios and speaker mics, a cooler, a folding chair and even a large standing umbrella. Now, this guy was really prepared! I will do better next year! Together Gary and I secured North Parking area for the entirety of the race and had no reportable issues beyond “first in category” reporting. Overall, there were only a couple of serious emergency type issues in this year’s race with both individuals making full recoveries. Radio reception / transmission was generally good although there were a few spots where 5W just wasn’t enough regardless of antenna but I believed we performed well on the overall and the Marine Corp Marathon organizers were very appreciative of the communication services we delivered. Perhaps we can get a few more of us out there next year in 2025!

Best Regards,

**Sean - K4KBK**



**(Left) Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, sets up for Marine Corps Marathon duty.  
(Right) Sean, K4KBK, before the race.**

## Member News

### *Three Clubs Host JOTA/POTA Event*

The Alexandria Radio Club (ARC) joined the Arlington Amateur Radio Club (ARRC) and the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) in hosting a Parks on the Air session combined with a Jamboree on the Air for Scouts. It took place on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Lady Bird Johnson Park/Columbia Island Marina along the Potomac River near the Pentagon.

**Gary Sessums, KC5QCN**, reports:

Jamboree on the Air, the largest Scouting event in the world, takes place annually during the third weekend of October to mentor Boy Scouts of all ages in the art and skill of amateur radio.

This annual global operating event allows Boy Scouts to use amateur radio to connect with hams around the world.

Club members set up portable operating gear, erected wire antennas in trees, and made HF radio contacts with JOTA stations located around the United States in addition to sending and receiving email messages over radio via Winlink.

Voice and digital amateur radio operations were conducted from picnic tables set up along the water's edge under the shade trees of the Potomac River, a class covering the basics of radio technology was held to assist Boy Scouts with radio merit badge requirements, and a free amateur radio exam session was offered.

Thanks to the members of the Arlington Amateur Radio Club (ARRC), the Alexandria Radio Club (ARC), and the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) listed below who mentored the Boy Scouts attending Jamboree on the Air:

**Tim O'Neill-K2KT, Jerry Foster-KN4SYO, Gary Sessums-KC5QCN, Phil Kania-KJ4GYJ, Sean Gallagher-K4KBK, Don Lewis-KI4D, Ian Keith-N8IK, Jan Maas-KB2LRX, Wade Duvall-KK1ZZ, Andrew Easton-KI4THF, Jay Orbin-KV3W, Jack Parker-W4JJ.**

## JOTA/POTA Photos



**(Top left) Joe with Ian, N8IK, talking to Scouts in Florida. (Top right) Declan and Caleb join the contact. (Above left) Heather, a Scout, and her mom learn about ham radio from Gary, KC5QCN, and Sean, K4KBK. (Above right) It was also a POTA event, and Wade, KK1ZZ, made numerous contacts.**

## ARC Members in Comms Team at Marine Corps Marathon

Ten members of the Alexandria Radio Club helped with communications at the 49th annual Marine Corps Marathon, Sunday, October 29, 2024.

Andrew Davnie-Easton-KI4THF, Wade Duvall-KK1ZZ, Sean Gallagher-K4KBK, Tim Gifford-KO4VFP, Ian Keith-N8IK, Sandy Kenyon-KQ4DNE, Alex Lammers-KO4ZMC, Erik Misavage-KI4BXU, Joe Porcelli-KT3I, Gary Sessums-KC5QCN.

## Activities and Events

### *Special Events:*

- **Nov. 11, Veteran's Day**, National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. New River Valley Amateur Radio Club. 1500Z-2030Z. 14.275. dannywylam@gmail.com
- **Nov. 11, Veterans Day**, American Legion Post 275, Amateur Radio Team, N3TAL, Lanham, MD. 1800Z-2100Z. 7.275. [www.qrz.com/db/n3tal](http://www.qrz.com/db/n3tal)
- **Dec. 1-11, W2W Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration.** Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum, Hunt Valley, MD. 1300Z-2200Z. [ww-2.us](http://ww-2.us)
- **Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**, American Legion Post 275, Amateur Radio Team, N3TAL, Lanham, MD. 1800Z-2100Z. 7.275. [www.qrz.com/db/n3tal](http://www.qrz.com/db/n3tal)

(Selected from ARRL Special Events Calendar  
<https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

### **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

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, November 8, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue. Annual election of club officers.

## Last Meeting

**Date:** October 11, 2024

**Time:** 1900 hours

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

### **Highlights:**

Treasurer's Report:

Account	Amount	Monthly Change
Checking	\$1,895.07	\$101.51
Savings Share	\$8,322.77	\$0.34
Trailer Share	\$729.23	\$0.03
Education Share	\$2,356.96	\$0.10
PayPal Share	\$278.85	\$47.29
	\$13,582.88	
Upcoming activity for October 2024		
	(\$46.91)	on 10/6/2024 - cellular data bill
pending	50/50 proceeds	
pending	membership renewals	
\$747.70	Field Day food and supplies purchase	
3 renewals since end of August 2024		

Discussion of upcoming events and proposals:

JOTA/POTA, Oct. 19

Marine Corps Marathon, Oct. 27

Proposed Elmer Workshop Ideas

Ideas for 75th anniversary celebration

Formation of a nominating committee for next month's election of officers.

Attendance, Oct. 11 (10 in person, 4 remotely)

Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Sean	K4KBK			Don	KI4D
Jack	W4JJ			Bob	KO4ZIK
Ted	W9TCE			Pete	N2KFA
Richard	KW4UJ			Brian	KE4WGI
Sandy	KQ4DNE				
Jan	KB2LRX				
Paul	KQ4LJS				
Larry	KQ4SBC				
Scott	W6GOU				
Wade	KK1ZZ				

**Correction for Attendance Record of September 13 Meeting:** The name of Rick Bunn, N4ASX, was inadvertently omitted; the name of Richard Morani, KW4UJ, was duplicated.

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>

## 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:

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