



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



# ARC-SHORTS

**The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club  
December 2024**

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During our November meeting, Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, a member of the US Coast Guard, described his deployment when Hurricane Milton hit Florida in October. (Bob's full account appears below.)

## **President's Corner**

**Sean (K4KBK)**

**S**eason's Greetings to all! We're now solidly in the 2024 Holiday Season and at the end of another successful Alexandria Radio Club year, in fact the end of our 70th year of operation! I would like to extend a sincere Thank You for all the efforts of the current membership of the Alexandria Radio Club in keeping things running right! From the "Elmering" of the newbies to public safety outreach, from community communications support to education and training, from the weekly radio nets to the HAM Fest gatherings and for participation in all the events sponsored or supported by the Club. Bravo Zulu! No one else does it any better! I would also like to acknowledge that the Club

would not exist today if it were not for the efforts of many who preceded us over the past 69 years. I thank them all for their contributions and guidance.

I'm looking forward to our Holiday party on the 13th at Glory Days. **Ian Keith, N8IK**, is our lead for this event and if you haven't RSVP'd to him, please do so ASAP ([iann8ik@gmail.com](mailto:iann8ik@gmail.com)) so we can secure a headcount for the restaurant.

Also, for those that choose to play, we will be having a blind gift exchange at the Party. The gifts can be virtually anything but we try to keep the value below \$15. Everyone that brings a gift, receives a gift. Many gifts are radio related and I've seen many great items circulating in the crowd and it's always good for a few laughs.

With January right around the corner, we will need to start building our teams to support the **GW Parade** and the **St. Patrick's Day** parades. Always a lot of fun to help out the organizers and the participants and have our gathering at Glory Days for the hot wash. The **GW parade schedule is different this year**: For the first time, it will be held on a Saturday—Feb. 15—and will not begin until 2 PM vice 1 PM, and run until 4 PM, so we may be having an early supper rather than a late lunch but it will all be good. We'll be naming event leads for these activities very soon so please respond to them expeditiously when they ask for participants to begin building the team rosters. We will also look at options for the conduct of **Winter Field Day** and there may be a call going out for **inauguration support on Jan 20th** in a remote contingency role.

January will also bring the budget approval, payment of annual fees, and hopefully a Club calendar filled with many fun events and activities.

Ok, enough from me. Let me hear from you! We can start the conversation at the Holiday party on the 13th! Bring a gift, bring a friend, and come on down!!

73,

**Sean, K4KBK**

### ***Holiday Party***

**Come to Glory Days for our December Meeting  
and Party, 7 PM, Friday, Dec. 13.**

**Friends and Family Welcome.**

**Glory Days Grill, 3141 Duke Street, Alexandria.**

## **Member News**

### **Bob Crumley Describes His Deployment for Hurricane Milton**

**A**s a member of the U.S. Coast Guard, I have served in many capacities, such as Command Center watchstander/supervisor, on senior officer staffs, and in Radio Central onboard cutters. I have taken those experiences and earned a Master of Science in Emergency Management and a qualification as a Communications Unit Leader Level Three (COML3). During the last 26+ year career, I have served as a COML3 for quite a few incidents, including hurricanes (10), two international exercises, multiple emergencies/contingencies, and an NFL Super Bowl. Most recently, I was deployed to Tampa/St. Pete in support of Hurricane MILTON.

My deployment started with the District Seven (Miami) Communications Staff requesting me by name as the preferred COML3 to respond in support of MILTON, which I did accept, as I was requesting a deployment to keep my current certification (need at least one deployment every 7 years). It started out as they wanted me down there before the hurricane hit, but bureaucracy being what it is, it took three days to get my official orders to travel, which included a requirement to fly into the area during the storm. I was able to get them changed so I could drive down there but could not find a diesel pick up that I could rent to haul the gear that I was requested to bring with me from Washington.



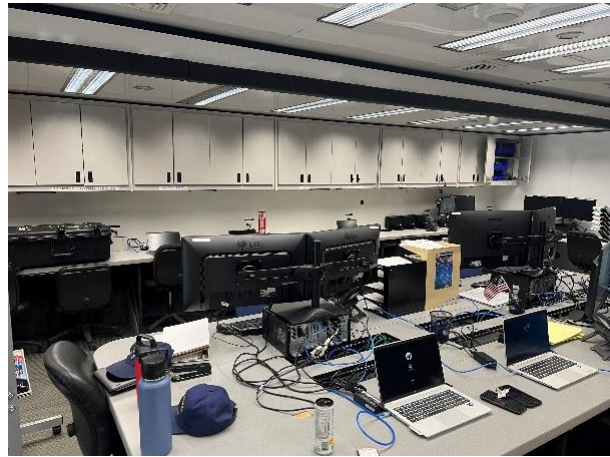
After finding suitable wheels in Charleston, SC, I flew down hoping to meet the team I would be working with, but they departed a few hours ahead of me. Anyway, I picked up the truck, loaded my gear, and headed south. Once I got onto I-95, there were miles and miles of support heading south to help support efforts. I saw law enforcement/fire rescue personnel from all over the country, linemen and their trucks ready to help repair the power grid, and temporary living quarters/bathrooms being pulled by support vehicles. I was one of many heading down to Florida to help those impacted.



I was moving at a good clip until I reached Ocala, FL. From there, all roads were a parking lot. I decided it was time to fill up the truck (luckily I used diesel as most stations did not have regular gas). I called the team I was meeting up with to see where they were, and somehow (with a five hour head start) I was ahead of them. We all met at the truck stop and game planned what we were going to do. Turns out, we were not going to make it to the Tampa area that night, so we looked for lodging but nothing was available, so we ended up parking the 18-wheeler mobile command center we had in a hotel parking lot and slept in the back of the trailer.

The next morning, we headed to Tampa/St. Pete. Once there, we set up the portable command center and then I headed to the Incident Command Post set up in Orlando. I checked it, got my hotel room, and took a long shower, as I had not had one in nearly 40 hours. I then went to work getting the ICP connected with what they needed to function, only to find out that we were going to be moving the ICP back to St. Pete in a couple of days. Therefore, I sent my IT team down to St. Pete to get a good look at what our new ICP setting was like and determine what we would need to make it functional.

I eventually joined them in St. Pete we went to work getting Coast Guard units back into service. We helped Air Station Clearwater with setting up portable trailers as office space while the hangers were repaired, rewired network connections in multiple buildings throughout the west coast of Florida, and delivered engineering and other vital supplies to units to allow them to focus on getting their homes and families taken care of instead of driving around trying to get the parts and supplies needed to make their units whole again.



Several times I had to shut down units and personnel that were trying to circumvent the request process for supplies and services as they all wanted the newest/shiniest toys regardless of whether it would serve their needs or not. I had to step in several times and shut down requests that were being processed and explained to all that if it did not originate from me or have my digital signature on the request, it was not valid. I told everyone that I needed to know the gaps that they had and I would provide the best solution, maybe not what they wanted but what we had that would meet their needs.

I also worked with the local Electronic Support Detachment in St. Pete to complete network and communications damage assessments and create a list of necessary supplies, tools, and equipment needed to make everyone whole and functional once again. After we started receiving our items, we fanned out in teams to start tackling the needs of each unit and making them whole once more. Throughout this process, my truck served as a great office. With many places waiting for power to be restored, I was able to function. Having cellular service, a hot spot, and both my issued laptop and iPad, I was able to take Teams calls/meetings on my iPad, respond to emails via my laptop, and remain mobile while meeting the needs of the impacted units up and down the west coast of Florida.

In the end, it was a good deployment and I had an amazing team. I was able to catch up with several old shipmates that I have not seen in over 15 years, help out many of my fellow Coasties so they could take care of themselves and their families, and notch another hurricane under my belt. Unfortunately, I was not able to take any of my HF equipment with me, hoping to on the next



deployment, as I am open and more than willing to deploy in the future to another hurricane.

As a result of this deployment, I am currently working with my command to submit my formal request to be certified as a Communications Unit Leader One (COML1), the highest level available. Let's see what happens this spring when the qualification board meets!

**73,**

**Bob, KO4ZIK**

## **ARES**

### **ARC ARES – Looking for a few good men & women**

**2 Senior and 2 Junior Radio Operators —**

**to function as primary leads for EOC and Hospital**

Will train candidates in the following areas:

- Familiarity with site equipment and configuration
- Experience as Net Control / demonstrated radio discipline



Desired qualifications: (or working towards)

- General Amateur Radio License (Technician OK to start)
- FEMA Independent Study: IS100,200,700,800 courses
- ARRL EC-001
- Familiarity with ICS forms

Background Checks are anticipated to work in sensitive areas.

Don't Panic! This is easier than it looks.

Interested? Email [pio@w4hfh.org](mailto:pio@w4hfh.org)

## Activities and Events

### *Contests:*

- **Dec. 14-15, ARRL 10-Meter Contest.**

<https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/10M-Rules.pdf>

(Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

### *Special Events:*

- **Dec. 17, W8W, 121st Anniversary of Wright Brothers First Flight**, Bellbrook Amateur Radio Club (BARC), Dayton, OH.

<https://bellbrookarc.org/wp/2024/12/06/barc-special-event-station/>

- **Dec. 21-Jan 1, Lighthouse Christmas Lights**, Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (LCL).

<https://arlhs.com/events/lighthouse-christmas-lights/>

- **Dec. 26-Jan. 2, W2T, Battle of Trenton**, Delaware Valley Radio Association, Trenton, NJ [www.w2zq.com](http://www.w2zq.com)

- **Jan. 3-12, W2P, Battle of Princeton**, Delaware Valley Radio Association, Trenton, NJ [www.w2zq.com](http://www.w2zq.com)

(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 the annual holiday party, held at 7 p.m., Friday, December 13, at the Glory Days Grill, 3141 Duke Street, Alexandria (Alexandria Commons).**

## **Last Meeting**

**Date: November 8, 2024**

**Time: 1900 hours**

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

1. The Alexandria Radio Club held its Annual November meeting on November 8th where the Club leadership for 2025 was elected by the members in attendance. Due to the annual elections and the requirement to vote in person, there was no remote access to the meeting via Zoom. 22 members were signed in and present for the annual meeting.
2. Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, and Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE, members of the nominating committee, conducted the election of 2025 Club Officers participating paid club members. Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, won the election for president with 14 votes while Erik Misavage, KI4BXU, received 9 votes. For 2025, the incumbent members for the Vice President's position and the Secretary's position were reelected; Robert



Crumley, KO4ZIK and Jack York, KE7VOU, respectively. The current treasurer Erik Misavage, KI4BXU, had reached the end of his 2-year tenure and will be replaced by newly elected Richard Morani, KW4UJ. As the three Director positions had also reached the end of their respective terms (Two 2-year positions and One 3-year position) they were also open for the 2025 election cycle. Director Joe Porcelli, KT3I, and Director-elect Bjorn Jernuld, KC3AOO, were elected to fill the two 2-year Director positions and Director Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE, was elected to fill the 3-year Director position.

3. The treasurer reported a total balance of \$13,678.02 in club accounts with a total of 81 paid members. A check, number 821, for \$546.31 was given to Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, for field day 2024 food and supplies.
4. The President informed the membership that the proposed technical workshops are targeted to begin in mid-January 2025. He also mentioned that due to the limited response from the ARC membership on preferred topics for the workshops, we will be allowing participation from other radio clubs in the area. The workshops are designed to teach skills to new hams and refresh the knowledge of more senior hams. Other members who are already subject matter experts but would like to assist in the workshop are more than welcome to attend.
5. Discussions concerning the celebration of the club's 70th anniversary have been shelved due to lack of interest exhibited by the membership.
6. Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, discussed his experiences with US Coast Guard relief efforts in Florida for Hurricane Milton during October 2024.
7. In support of the Alexandria EOC and the development of an ARES team, the club is encouraging members to complete basic FEMA Independent Study courses 100, 200 700, and 800 along with ARRL EC-001 course. FEMA courses will require the individual to file for student id (SID) and ARRL courses will require ARRL membership. These steps are necessary to ensure that an officially recognized organization holds your completion results.
8. In training and education area, Richard Morani, KW4UJ, reported that no fall license classes were held because of small enrollment numbers and further that the details for the spring license class are now posted on the club website. KW4UJ also reported that online VE applications are now posted on the ARRL website. KW4UJ has a collection of tablet computers

which will be used for online testing at the end of the license class training cycle.

9. Matthew Johnson, KQ4AGS, will be organizing a winter maintenance session for the club trailer.
10. Richard Morani, KW4UJ, reported that the website is working. Ian Keith, N8IK, reported that ARRL .Net email addresses do not pass through the club's e-mail message filters.
11. Bryan Pettigrew, WD4ADF, reported that all Net Control Operator (NCO) positions for November are filled. However, volunteers for NCO slots in December and January are needed.
12. Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, is requesting potential technical topics for an elmer workshop to be held during a January 2025 weekend at Alexandria City Fire Department station number 210.
13. Ian Keith, N8IK, mentioned the following upcoming events: ARRL phone sweepstakes contest on November 9th and 10th; Hamcation from February 7th to 9th in Orlando, Florida; the club holiday party on December 13th at Glory Days on Duke Street in Alexandria; and new vendor manufacturer for club name tags will need to be found.

Please refer all comments and questions on this report to:

Jack York

Secretary, Alexandria Radio Club

x3unix1@cox.net

**Recorded Attendance, Nov. 8 (22 in person, 0 remotely)**

| Name    | Call Sign | Name  | Call Sign | Name | Call Sign |
|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|------|-----------|
| Sean    | K4KBK     | Wade  | KK1ZZ     |      |           |
| Bob     | KO4ZIK    | John  | KE4JEM    |      |           |
| Jack    | KE4VOU    | Brian | KE4WGI    |      |           |
| Erik    | KI4BXU    | Pete  | N2KFA     |      |           |
| Ted     | W9TCE     | Ian   | N8IK      |      |           |
| Richard | KW4UJ     | Tim   | KO4VFP    |      |           |
| Sandy   | KQ4DNE    | Ryan  | KO4EBY    |      |           |
| Jan     | KB2LRX    | Matt  | KQ4AGS    |      |           |
| Gary    | KC5QCN    | Todd  | KQ5T      |      |           |
| Bryan   | WD4ADF    | Björn | KC3AOO    |      |           |
| Rick    | N4ASX     | Stex  | K4IEW     |      |           |

**Note: Not all attendees signed the roster.**

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: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