



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club

August 2025

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ARC members Sandy-KQ4DNE, Stex-K4IEW, and Sean-K4KBK greet visitors at National Night Out, Oct. 5. A painters pole hoisted their antenna. (Story below.)

President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

After completing our annual Field Day, we are quickly sliding into the last days of Summer, which are great times to be outside with your radio. If you've never conducted a Parks on the Air (POTA) and would like some help in getting started please let us know. Thankfully, we have some members that are professional POTA people who, I think, can make QSOs using a tube of

toothpaste! They're awesome! While you need to be in a registered park to be a POTA activator, a POTA hunter can be anywhere while responding to the activators. We conduct a joint POTA effort with the Arlington Club, W4WVP, monthly, April through October, at the Columbia Island Marina. Stop over and check out the setups, ask questions and get on the air. You'll be glad you did!

Saturday, I traveled to Kilmarnock for the funeral of an old friend who left Northern Virginia for Northern Neck about 10 years ago. When I pulled into the parking lot of the funeral home for the service, I found myself surrounded by vehicles carrying amateur radio call signs as license tags. I double checked my event info to insure I was in the right place and that this wasn't a ham convention in Kilmarnock! What I didn't know is that while Dave and I stayed in touch at least annually, I never knew that he started an involvement with Amateur Radio back 4 or 5 years ago and that both he and his wife had gotten their licenses, general and tech respectively. I uncovered the mystery at the reception following the service. Dave and his wife were members of the Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association (RARA) based in Kilmarnock, VA. Most of the club had showed up for Dave's funeral and thus why I had seen so many amateur radio license tags in the parking lot. Once I mentioned that I was part of the Alexandria Radio Club, the flood gates opened and I was taken around and introduced to each member and invited back down to participate in any of their activities. Great bunch of people they have there at RARA. Ham radio is alive and well in Northern Neck.

Sunday, I traveled to Berryville for the annual **Berryville Hamfest**. The **Roanoke Division Deputy Director Bill Moline** presented an updated brief on ARRL activities including a discussion of their program for 2026 "The Year of the Club." I was also able to get some guidance for my upcoming trip to ARRL HQ / W1AW / W1HQ. I will distribute Bill's brief as soon as I receive it.

I'm writing this on Tuesday, 5 August, the date of **National Night Out (NNO)** and we will have a four-member presence in Del Ray, "demoing" radios, talking to City Officials and other volunteer groups, talking to the public, seeking new members and yes, eating free Dairy Godmother Ice Cream from the vendor next to us! Location, Location, Location!

Next big event is "**Ton's of Trucks**" in September. Still looking for a few good men and women to represent the club to the City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the public. We will have the ARC trailer up at Chinquapin Park for the event and we will actually be part of the OEM contingent. Should be fun and 20 September is probably cooler than Field Day.

I hope you are taking advantage of the information presented by Stex Fonda, our Emergency Communications Division Chief, last month. Get lined up for some updated training from the online FEMA catalogs or some in-person courses as appropriate. Please let us know if you run into sponsorship issues and we will get OEM to intercede as necessary.

Ok, going to have to cut this a bit short this month as I have to pack out for NNO in the next 20 minutes. As always, if you have ideas for programs or projects for the club or just topics of discussion, please bring them forward. We still have a lot of “administrivia tasks” to straighten out but I think we’re better off than many other clubs in the region.

73, Sean, K4KBK

Member News

Welcome, New Members

Evan Bestic-KQ4UPW

Jonathan Geier-KD3BGT

Kelby Hinson-KR4FPB

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 442.4125 +5Mhz Color Code 1.

The Alexandria Radio Club Demonstrates Ham Radio at National Night Out

Alexandria Radio Club (ARC) members Gary Sessums-KC5QCN, Sean Gallagher-K4KBK, Stefano “Stex” Fonda-K4IEW, and Sandy Kenyon-KQ4DNE, participated in the annual “National Night Out” event which seeks to promote safe neighborhoods and strengthen relationships between public safety officials and the local community.



Alexandria Sheriff Sean Casey (2d. l.) joined Gary-KC5QCN, Sean-K4KBK, Stex-K4IEW, and Sandy-KQ4DNE at the event.

The event was held on Tuesday August 5, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, Virginia.

The team setup a battery-powered portable amateur radio station and antennas, distributed club flyers, answered questions from the community, and enjoyed free ice cream while demonstrating voice and digital modes of amateur radio, including the use of Winlink email over ham radio.

--Gary-KC5QCN



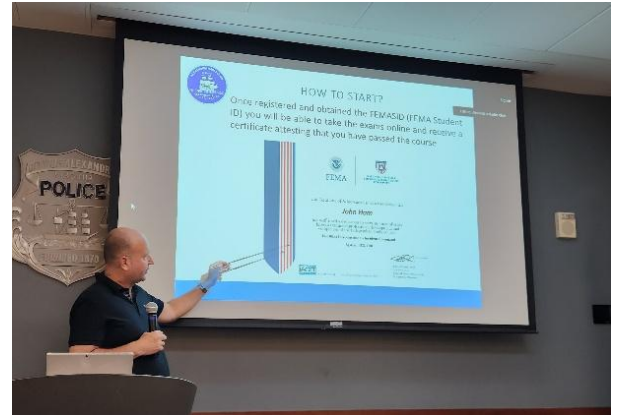
Winlink set-up allowed ARC to send email to visitors' email.

EmComm Division

At our July meeting, ARC members heard an EmComm presentation that described which online courses ham radio operators can access to train for emergency situations.

Stefano “Stex” Fonda-K4IEW (pictured right) discussed the registration procedures for FEMA federal courses and the ARRL training offerings. He also discussed the courses considered essential for starting a self-training program that allows access to more complex training modules.

These can be continued in person and with dedicated exercises for certification purposes.



He stressed that none of these courses are mandatory for a ham radio operator to be able to contribute in the event of a real emergency or participate in a local exercise. However, they represent extremely useful training to increase the professionalism of the participation by having a greater knowledge of the emergency organization at the local, state, and federal level.

Recommended basic FEMA courses are **IS-100** and **IS-200**, introduction to the Incident Command System for Initial Responses, and the **IS-700** and **IS-800**, providing fundamentals about the National Response Framework. Link for FEMA courses:

<https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frts/npccatalog?catalog=EMI>

For the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), ARRL offers very detailed Basic and Intermediate Emergency Communications courses. Link for ARRL basic EmComm course: <https://learn.arrl.org/courses/67044>

After completing a module, participants receive a completion certification that is recorded in the individual's ARES Standardized Training Plan & Task Book. This book serves as a guide for local ARES groups to ensure their members have the necessary knowledge and skills for emergency operations.

Important contributions and comments based on personal experiences of the members present completed the discussion.

Activities and Events

Contests/QSO Parties:

- **August 9-10, Maryland-DC QSO Party.**
<https://www.w3vpr.org>
- **August 16-17, North American QSO Party.**
<https://ncjweb.com/>
- **August 23-25, Hawaii QSO Party.**
<https://www.hawaiiqsoparty.org/>
- **August 23-24, Ohio QSO Party.** <https://www.ohqp.org/>
- **August 30-31, US Islands QSO Party.**
<https://usislands.org/qso-party-rules/>
- **August 30-31, Colorado QSO Party.**
<https://ppraa.org/coqp>
- **August 30-31, Kansas QSO Party.**
<https://www.ksqsoparty.org/>
- **Sept. 7-8, Tennessee QSO Party.** <https://tnqp.org/>
(Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar
<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

Special Events:

- **August 9, US Coast Guard Birthday, NI6IW.** San Diego, CA, USS Midway Museum Ship.
<https://www.qrz.com/db/NI6IW>
- **August 16, Fire Island Light House, US0019, W2GSB**
(*International Lightship Weekend; also, POTA and IOTA*).
West Babylon, NY. Great South Bay ARC.
<https://gsbarc.org/upcoming-events/>

- **August 23, NS Savanna Maiden Voyage Anniversary, K3S**, Port of Baltimore. Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC.
<https://www.qrz.com/db/K3S>
- **Sept. 13, Commemorating USS Midway Commissioning in 1945, NI6IW**, San Diego, CA, USS Midway Museum Ship. Monterey DX Group,
<https://www.qrz.com/db/NI6IW>
(Selected from ARRL Special Events Calendar <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

Next Meeting

Friday, August 8, 1900 hours, at the Community Room at the Alexandria Police Headquarters Building, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

Last Meeting

Date: July 11, 2025

Time: 1900 hours

Location: Community Room at the Alexandria Police Headquarters Building, 3600 Wheeler Avenue

1. **For the July 11th meeting** of the Alexandria Amateur Radio Club, 22 people were in attendance with 17 people in-person and 5 people participating in the online zoom meeting.
2. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, discussed the contributions of many club members to the 2025 Field Day.
3. **Richard Morani, KW4UJ**, discussed the treasurer's report with a total balance of almost \$14,000.00 that included reimbursements for food and beverage purchases to Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, and purchase of new batteries for the trailer.
4. **Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE**, is contacting local area people with recently expired licenses and new licenses as a recruitment action to bolster membership levels.

5. **Jan Maas, KB2LRX**, discussed recent and upcoming PIO activities that included the release of ARC Shorts, National Night Out on August 5th in the Del Ray section of Alexandria that will include emergency communications, and the Tons of Trucks event on September 20th in Chinquapin Park in Alexandria that will have the trailer with an operating radio station.
6. **Joe K, KD2HZG**, discussed emergency communications activities including 2025 Field Day activities, a drill scheduled on August 5th for managers, restart of HF digital nets, recruitment of 2 hospital contacts and the need for more ARES participants with completed course work.
7. **Ian Keith, N8IK**, discussed repeater problems including interference on the 2 meter analog FM repeater. To reduce the interference, the sensitivity of the link repeater was reduced. N8IK will investigate problems reported with 70cm D-Star repeater.
8. **Richard Morani, KW4UJ**, discussed upcoming training and testing activities including the technician class scheduled to start in October with electronic testing.
9. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, discussed the trailer including the need to replace some of the radio microphones and speakers.
10. **Richard Morani, KW4UJ**, reported on recent website updates including the removal of links to the Hamshack Hotline as a result of its upcoming closure. **Joe K, KD2HZG**, mentioned potential replacements for the Hamshack Hotline including <https://hamsoverip.com/>.
11. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, stated that all social media sites are up-to-date. **Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE**, stated that the club's Facebook page is set to private, not public, viewing.
12. **Bryan Pettigrew, WD4ADF**, reported that all net control operator (NCO) slots for July have been scheduled. Special nets are scheduled to start again in August and September. However, they require NCO volunteers. Member are encouraged to contact WD4ADF if they want NCO training.
13. **Robert Crumley, KO4ZIK**, gave a summary of Field Day 2025 activities at Chinquapin Park.

14. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, reported on the old business activity of creating a club inventory with Skip Dronen, KO2THF.

15. **Stefano Fonda, K4IEW**, gave a presentation on emergency communications

16. Upcoming events include:

- a) Columbia Island Marina POTA event on July 19th.
- b) Berryville Hamfest on August 3rd.
- c) Emergency communications managers drill on August 5th.
- d) Wednesday evening D-Star net on the W4HFH__C 145.38, or via hotspot at 8pm
- e) Thursday evening net on the 146.315 Mhz analog FM repeater at 8pm
- f) Meteor scatter contest on August 11th and 12th along with December 12th and 13th.
- g) Winlink Wednesdays include the activities of weather training on the first Wednesday and weather observation on the third Wednesday.

Please refer all comments and questions on this report to:

Jack York

Secretary, Alexandria Radio Club

x3unix1@cox.net

Recorded Attendance, July 11, 2025 (17 in person, 5 remotely)

Sean-KB2KBK
Bob-KO4ZIK
Richard-KW4UJ
Jack Y-KE7VOU
Jan-KB2LRX
Gary S-KC5QCN

Ian-N8IK
Ted E-W9TCE
Stex-K4IEW
John-KE4JEM
Sandy-KQ4DNE
Erik-KI4BXU

Wilson-KM4KLL
Skip-KO2THF
Tom-NH7XJ
Bryan-WD4ADF
Evan-KQ4UPW
Don-KI4D

Rick-N4ASX
Ed-KQ4YGT
Jeremy-KR4CPB
Louis-KO4QVB

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 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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