



# ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club  
September 2025

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Skip-K02THF, Stex-K4IEW, Gary-KC5QCN, and Sean-K4KBK set up at Jones Point for International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. (Story below.)

## President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

**G**reetings and Salutations! Welcome to the fourth quarter of 2025! Thanks to the efforts of many club members, we are enjoying a very successful year and with the **addition of nearly a dozen new members bringing our membership total to 109**. A special welcome to all of our new members and a reminder not to be bashful. If you need some help or information, we are always glad to assist. Don't know who to contact, please let me know and we'll get you set up.

Last month, we participated in a **metro area communications drill (Winlink transmission) on behalf of Alexandria OEM**, the annual **National Night Out** with citizens and public safety officials, a **POTA/Day in the Park joint outing with W4WVP at Columbia Island Marina**, and the annual **International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) where we setup three stations (2 HF & 1 VHF) at Jones Point Park Lighthouse**. While the band conditions weren't great, we managed to make QSOs with both other lighthouse stations globally as well as POTA activators around the country. The weather was great and a good time was had by all.

Mid-month, I took another trip up north for a follow-on round of estate management at my mother's house. In addition to the sorting and organizing, I was able to steal some time on Friday and Saturday to attend New England's second largest amateur radio show, **HamXposition, in Marlboro, MA**. As a special feature on Friday morning, the show team organized a trip down to Newington CT to visit **ARRL HQ and W1AW**. I was able to tour the HQ building with the labs, museum RFI test chamber, the Teachers Institute and secondary radio station that doubles as a video studio for training videos! The ARRL staff covers a lot of ground with few people and a moderate-size facility. I was impressed with their efforts. Also was able to take the tour of W1AW. That station was very simply awesome! The ARRL Station Manager offered us an opportunity to get on the air from W1AW but being that we were a group of 30, I declined so others could have a better opportunity. Still haven't figured out how they can broadcast on four towers covered in antennas with 800-1000W average power without affecting the residences that surround the facility. If you are ever in the Hartford area, I recommend stopping by for a W1AW tour. On Saturday, I sat through several radio and club management presentations and then visited with many of the vendors including Flex Radio, Elecraft, and ABR industries, as well as many independent entrepreneurs and local area resellers. In a stroke of luck, I ran into Matt from Reliance Antennas. Matt was at the Berryville fest where I bought an advance copy of one of his Inflatenna antenna, a blow-up antenna that handles 80-6 meter bands. As Matt was out of stock at Berryville show, I was expecting a shipment but was able to pick up the antenna at Marlboro fest and save him the shipping! Now, I just hope the antenna works as advertised!

This month, we will be **supporting the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for Preparedness Month at the Tons of Trucks event on 20 September at Chinquapin Park**. The event will set up around 8AM with our trailer on station and run from 1000-1400 hours. We will be looking for a

handful of volunteers to meet/greet the public, answer questions about the Club and Amateur Radio, and solicit new members.

Hopefully by now with summer winding down, you are able to take 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. You might also consider upgrading your operating license.

With October right around the corner, it's time to get registered to support the **2025 Marine Corps Marathon**. If you have never supported this event, I can tell you that it's a lot of fun and an opportunity to give back to the community as an Amateur Radio Operator. As this is the 50<sup>th</sup> running of this event, they anticipate record crowds and how cool will it be to have a shirt from the 50<sup>th</sup> running! If you have questions before you register, please contact me ([comms@gallagher.us.com](mailto:comms@gallagher.us.com)) so I can answer them or find you the answers. If we need to, we can convene a separate Zoom session to review the key items of information to make your day a pleasant success. In past years, the Marathon committee Amateur Radio Team held a helpful Saturday meeting a couple of weeks prior to the race where they shared details on the event, provided guidance and recommendations as necessary to all AROs. This meeting also serves as an opportunity to meet your fellow AROs and the Net Controllers you'll be communicating with during the event. Once registered, you will receive a PDF event plan with an Amateur Radio Operator guide containing the repeater plan, a timeline, a route map, and many other key details. The guide is very well done and you will have it early enough to get the designated repeaters plugged into your radio and tested! (All repeaters used for the event are actually existing 2M repeaters in the area, but I prefer to create a separate list and name them in my radio, Alpha thru Echo or Foxtrot, just like the Net Controllers will refer to them to avoid confusion. There are 57 ARO slots still open and we really need to get them filled to make the day go easier for all. Here's the link to sign-up to support the marathon: [Register to volunteer with Marine Corps Marathon Organization via VolunteerLocal](#) Let's get it done!

Lastly, I would like to give a big shout-out to **Skip Dronen, KO2THF**, for passing his EXTRA license exam. Congrats, Skip! Way to go!

All for now. See you on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**73, Sean, K4KBK**

## **Member News**

### **Welcome, New Member**

**Chris Johnson-KD4EMQ**

### **Congratulations, New Net Controllers**

**Austin Klob-KQ4ZCO** and **Ed McDonald-KQ4YGT** completed the net control class led by **Byran Pettigrew-WD4ADF**. Bryan reports that he will schedule one special 70-cm net for September on Saturday 13 September at 0930 on the 444.600 repeater. This is in addition to the club's regular Wednesday night DSTAR net and Thursday night FM net.

### **Congratulations, New Extra**

**Skip Dronan-KO2THF** passed the Amateur Extra Exam.

### **ARC Licensing School Begins Oct. 7**

Registration is now open for the club's licensing school, which covers the material for the Technician and General amateur licenses. Classes are held Tuesdays from 7 to 9pm via Zoom meeting, and begin on Tuesday, October 7. The last session (in-person) will be held on Tuesday, December 9, at the Alexandria Police Department, 3600 Wheeler Ave, and the FCC licensing exams will be administered at that time. For further information, and to register, contact [training@w4hfh.org](mailto:training@w4hfh.org).

#### **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.**

## ARC at Jones Point for Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

The Alexandria Radio Club set up near the Jones Point Lighthouse to operate in the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW), August 16-17. The objective of the ILLW is to encourage amateur radio operators to set up portable stations at or near lighthouses, to connect amateur radio with maritime heritage, and to make contacts with as many other amateur radio stations as possible.

The club operated with the call sign W2B and made 28 QSOs. The crew included Sean Gallagher-K4KBK, Gary Sessums-KC5QCN, Stex Fonda-K4IEW, and Skip Dronen-KO2THF, Jack Parker-W4JJ, Tim O'Neill-K2KT, Austin Klob-KQ4ZCO, Larry Corcoran-KQ4SBC, Talia Linneman-KR4FUW, Frank Cooper-no call, and Jan Maas-KB2LRX.



Part of the ARC contingent at ILLW:  
(from left) Austin-KQ4ZCO, Gary-KC5QCN, Jack-W4JJ, and Larry-KQ4SBC.

### **Alexandria Radio Club Date Book**

#### ***Coming Events***

**Saturday, September 20: Tons of Trucks,  
Chinquapin Park**

**Saturday, October 18, 0800-1600: Jamboree on  
the Air (JOTA), Columbia Island Marina**

**Sunday, October 26: Marine Corps Marathon**

## Activities and Events

### *Hamfests:*

- **Oct. 5, CARA Fest**, sponsored by the Columbia Amateur Radio Association, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.  
<https://www.columbiaara.org/caraFest>

### *Contests/QSO Parties:*

- **Sept. 20-21, New Jersey QSO Party.** <https://www.k2td-bcrc.org/nj-qp>
  - **Sept. 20-21, Texas QSO Party.** <https://www.txqp.net/>
  - **Sept. 20-21, Iowa QSO Party.** <https://www.w0yl.com>
  - **Sept. 20-21, New Hampshire QSO Party.** <https://www.w1wqm.org/>
  - **Sept. 27-28, Maine QSO Party.** <https://www.ws1sm.com>
  - **Sept. 27, Masonic Lodges on the Air.** <https://www.cqmorelight.com>
  - **Oct. 4-5, California QSO Party.** <https://www.cqp.org/>
  - **Oct. 11-12, Nevada QSO Party.** <https://nvqso.com/>
  - **Oct. 11-12, Arizona QSO Party.** <https://azqp.org>
  - **Oct. 11-12, Pennsylvania QSO Party.** <https://paqso.org>
  - **Oct. 11-12, South Dakota QSO Party.** <https://www.sdqsoparty.com>
- (Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

### *Special Events:*

- **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>
- **Oct. 4-19, 1400Z-2359Z, N2S, US Navy's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday, NI6BB.** San Pedro, CA, Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association.  
<https://biara.org/>
- **Oct. 10-12, 86 Years of US Coast Guard Auxiliary, N2S.** Cape May, NJ, US Coast Guard Auxiliary. 14.310 7.250 18.200 VHF. Certificate. Mike Slepian WB2LKO, 12 Continental Lane, Marlton, NJ 08053.
- **Oct. 18, 1500Z-2000Z, 244<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of British Surrender at Yorktown, K4RC.** Williamsburg, VA, Williamsburg Area ARC. 7.265 14.265. Certificate. QSL Manager, WAARC, P.O. Box 1470, Williamsburg, VA 23187. <https://www.k4rc.net/events/special-event-stations/>



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

## **Next Meeting**

**Friday, September 12, 1900 hours, at the Community Room at the Alexandria Police Headquarters Building, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.**

## **Last Meeting**

**Date: August 8, 2025**

**Time: 1900 hours**

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

1. For the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Alexandria Amateur Radio Club, 18 people were in attendance at the in-person location with no one participating in the online zoom meeting.
2. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, discussed the contributions of many club members to the National Night Out on August 5th.
3. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, gave the **treasurer's report** with a total balance of near \$14,000.
4. **Jack York, KE7VOU**, asked for questions regarding the July meeting minutes. No questions were asked.
5. **Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE**, discussed the **recruitment of two new members**, club logo stickers, and the loss of two club members who moved out of the local area.
6. **Jan Maas, KB2LRX**, discussed the **National Night Out event on August 5<sup>th</sup>**. **Gary Sessums, KC5QCN**, stated that the local area fire department requested amateur radio license classes. Jan Maas, KB2LRX, stated that the next club public event will be the City of Alexandria **Tons of Trucks event to be held in the Chinquapin Park at 3210 King Street on September 20<sup>th</sup>**.
7. **Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE**, discussed **emergency communications and ARES** with the upcoming event of local area emergency communications

manager meeting with a **Virginia statewide drill planned to start at 11 am on the morning of August 16<sup>th</sup>.**

8. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, discussed the **club's repeaters** with reports of continued intermittent noise on the 2-meter analog FM repeater. **Ian Keith, N8IK**, observed that all club repeaters are operational.
9. **Gary Sessums, KC5QCN**, discussed the upcoming **license exam session at the Falls Church, VA, American Legion Post on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.**
10. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, discussed the next club trailer demonstration at the **Tons of Trucks event on September 20<sup>th</sup>.**
11. **Gary Sessums, KC5QCN**, discussed the lack of data and broken links in many content items on the **club's website**. Gary Sessums also mentioned that the club's Facebook page is private while many other clubs have public pages. **Jason Palma, WA6MPR**, the social media coordinator, was not present.
12. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, discussed an upcoming **net control operator class** that is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>. Special radio nets on club repeaters including DStar, 70 centimeters, DMR, and 10 meters are scheduled for September 2025.
13. **Robert Crumley, KO4ZIK**, reported that **Field Day 2025 club results** are being uploaded into the Log Book of the World website.
14. **Skip Dronen, KO2THF**, continued the discussion of an item of old business, which is the creation of a **club physical inventory list** in a spreadsheet file. The estimated total value of all club's physical assets including items such as trailer and repeaters is \$35,000. The inventory will serve as an input for the creation of the club's 5-year budget and the creation of the capital equipment replacement plan. The inventory investment will also allow the evaluation of the club's property loss insurance coverage.
15. **Gary Sessums, KC5QCN**, reported that the website link provided by **Louis Mingo, KO4QVB**, for ordering club hat and shirts is not working.
16. **Sean Gallagher, K4KBK**, continued the discussion of the new business item of **moving the Club into a 501.c.3 status**. The purposes of moving to a 501.c.3 tax-filing status include: (1) no tax liability when club income



is below \$50,000; (2) the streamlining of the process of filing taxes with the IRS form N-990 that has an estimated completion time of 15 minutes; and (3) donations to the club will be tax-deductible for the donor. Donations from private individuals and corporations can be both money and in-kind services. In-kind service donations such as real estate can be very valuable to the club. To prepare for the application for 501.c.3 nonprofit status, the club will need to complete the documentation of recent financial history for the last several years and update the Articles of Incorporation.

17. **Stefano Fonda, K4IEW**, discussed upcoming events including a POTA event at Columbia Island Marina on August 9<sup>th</sup> and the International Lighthouse and Light Ship Weekend on August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Jones Point Lighthouse in Alexandria, VA. **Ian Keith, N8IK**, discussed past difficulties setting up antennas at the Jones Point Lighthouse location.

18. Upcoming events include:

- a) Wednesday evening D-Star net on 145.380 Mhz, the 2-meter W4HFH "C" node, at 8pm.
- b) Thursday evening net on the 146.315 Mhz analog FM repeater at 8pm
- c) Meteor scatter contest on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.
- d) Winlink Wednesdays include the activities of weather training on the first Wednesday and weather observation on the third Wednesday.
- e) Hamfest in West Friendship, Maryland on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Visit the website link: <https://www.columbiaara.org/caraFest>.
- f) Port of Baltimore: Baltimore Defender's Day, Sep. 13, 1330Z-2100Z, sponsored by Nuclear Ship *Savannah* Amateur Radio Club. Special event call sign K3S. QSOs can be made on 7, 14, 18, 21, 28 meter bands. Contact Ullis Fleming, 980 Patuxent Rd., Odenton, MD 21113. Check spotting networks. [www.qrz.com/db/k3s](http://www.qrz.com/db/k3s).
- g) Baltimore, MD: SS *John W. Brown* Living History Cruise September 13, sponsored by the SS *John W. Brown* Radio Club. QSOs can be made on 7.210, 14.230, 21.300, 28.320, from 1500Z-2000Z. Certificates will be awarded. Contact Randall Crenweige, 2 Laurel Hill Rd., Unit K, Greenbelt, MD 20770. [www.ssjohnwbrown.org](http://www.ssjohnwbrown.org)

Please refer all comments and questions on this report to:

**Jack York**

**Secretary, Alexandria Radio Club**

**x3unix1@cox.net**

**Recorded Attendance, August 12, 2025 (18 in person, 0 remotely\*)**

Sean-KB2K BK  
Bob-KO4ZIK  
Jack Y-KE7VOU  
Jan-KB2LRX  
Gary S-KC5QCN

Ian-N8IK  
Stex-K4IEW  
Sandy-KQ4DNE  
Erik-KI4BXU  
Skip-KO2THF

Jeremy-KR4CPB  
Mike-KQ4WOI  
Marnie-N9AWG  
Larry-KQ4SBC  
Talía-KR4FUW

Frank-no call  
Jon-KD3BGT  
Jaclyn-no call

**\*Zoom connection did not work at this meeting.**

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](http://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

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