



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
February 2026

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At Winter Field Day, Joe Porcelli (KT3I) got ready to work the International Space Station with a hand-held antenna. Story and more pictures below.

President's Corner

Aaron Kahn (K6HLC)

First, I would like to share my many thanks to all who came out and supported the **Winter Field Day** event. I would also like to thank all those who made this happen. Finally, many thanks to our host, Fire Station 210 and Chief Anthony Kelly, Training Battalion Chief, for their support in letting us use the facility. Despite the oncoming snow and ice, we had a great time making contacts, building antennas, and improvising to get contacts on 12 bands.

If you missed out on the Field Day event, not to worry, there are other activities just around the corner. There is still time to help out with the **GW Parade on February 14**. Operations are just like the 2m net, but you get to do it while walking and having a great time being part of the parade. If February doesn't work for you, the **Saint Patrick's Day Parade is March 7** and the **Cherry Blossom Parade is April 12**. So, as you can see there are plenty of opportunities to both support the local community and have fun on the radio at the same time.

Finally, please keep an eye out for a **survey** that I am putting together to get a better pulse on the club. **I am interested in getting a better understanding of the makeup and interests of the club members.** This data is critical to helping to make the club more relevant to you, the members.

Till next time,

73, Aaron, K6HLC

Member News

Welcome New Members

**A. Maitland Bottoms – AA4HS
Jaclyn Lavota
Keith Regatts - KR4JEG
Alexander Hauge – KD3CJT**

Is Your Membership up to Date?

Membership dues are \$25.00 per year, due in January. The easiest and quickest way to pay dues is via PayPal on the W4HFH website at <https://w4hfh.org>, or you may mail a check or money order to Alexandria Radio Club, Inc., P.O. Box 30721, Alexandria, VA 22310. Please include your call sign if you have one.

Winter Field Day 2026

ARC set up a Winter Field Day operation for Saturday, Jan. 24, at Alexandria Fire Station 210, on Eisenhower Ave. Members set up antennas, radio gear, and logging software, and made numerous contacts in different modes.

Lead organizer **Skip Dronen (KO2THF)** reports:

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I wish I could thank everyone by name for planning, setting up, operating, and de-mobilizing our Winter Field Day Exercise. Frankly, it is just not possible. This was such a team effort; I would definitely miss someone if I tried to make that list.

Set-up on Friday and Saturday morning went very well. We were ready to operate an hour before the official start at 11:00 am. We were well fueled, dozens upon dozens of donated doughnuts, pastries, coffee and rhubarb pies! One new Ham Radio Technician was minted, and he operated for the first time that day. We had some fantastic technology demos with ARES, clear nodes, Winlink FM setups, etc. We even had three people try to squeeze in some End-Fed Halfwave antenna building.

More importantly, this club showed a tremendous amount of capability in both the art and science of radio. We literally operated on 12 bands, which was a tremendous accomplishment. We operated in SSB, CW, and Digital (I nabbed a JS8Call at the last minute). We copied the WFD Bulletin. We operated multiple stations on battery power. All while managing the minute to minute nature of a pending real world weather situation to ensure we didn't put our members and guests at risk.

Like all events, we did some things well and could improve in other areas. If you have any constructive feedback, please send me a note and I'll add it to my notes.

Thank you again to the planning team, the folks that provided spontaneous support, and for those that attended!

Winter Field Day in Pictures



One minute to go. The morning crew at Winter Field Day ready to make contacts: (l-r) Gary-KC5QCN, Jay-KV3W, Jonathan-KD3BGT, Ian-N8IK, Ed-KQ4YGT, Larry-KQ4SBC, Ian-N8IK, Stex-K4IEW, Keith, Skip-KO2THF. Keith passed his Tech test that day and began operating as KR4JEG the next week; by the next week he had passed for General.



(Clockwise from upper left) Aaron Kahn (K6HLC), son Stanley and wife Laura observe the GEOCHRON that Ian-N8IK set up. Stex-K4IEW makes a contact. The day included several hands-on workshops, an ARES demonstration, and other activities. And lots of goodies, including rhubarb pies from the oven of Ed MacDonald (KQ4YGT).

“Homebound, Snowbound” Nets Pop Up

After the winter storm hit our area on Sunday, Jan. 25, many club members were working from home the next day. Net Control Coordinator, **Bryan Pettigrew (WD4ADF)**, spread the word that he would host a “homebound, snowbound” net at noon on our 2-meter repeater. It was such a success that he held another the next day. Bryan says he may schedule similar “pop-up” nets on other repeaters in the future. Thanks, Bryan.

ARES

Joe Kalfa (KD2HZG)

Hope everyone had a good New Years, I wanted to throw out a reminder that at next Friday’s club meeting Alexandria ARES will be giving a special presentation on **AllStarLink**. This presentation will focus on how individual ARES communicators can use AllStarLink nodes to enhance their capabilities and provide greater service to partner organizations. I wanted to post this to let folks toss out some questions or requests for specific things to be covered. Just to give a brief overview of the presentation:

- AllStarLink vs Echolink Software
- Accessing AllStar Nodes from the Internet
- AREDN/MP2MP WiFi Integration
- HOIP/AW Integration (ham shack hotline successors)
- PSTN (public phone network) integration.
- How AllStarLink compares to COTS solutions like C-AT ICRI and SyTech RIOS.
- Access Control
- Repeater linking



Look forward to seeing you all there.

Alexandria Radio Club Date Book

Coming Events

Saturday, February 14: George Washington Parade, Market Square, Alexandria.

Saturday, March 7: Ballyshaners St. Patrick's Day Parade, Market Square, Alexandria.

Sunday, March 15: WINTERFEST 2026, Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna Virginia, 22181.

ARC Club Repeaters

6m: 53.130- (PL 107.2)

2m: 147.315+ (PL 107.2)

1.25m: 224.820- (PL 107.2)

70cm: 444.600+ (PL 107.2)

33cm: 927.600- (PL107.2)

23cm: 1282.600- (PL 107.2)

D-STAR 2m: 145.380-

D-STAR 70cm: 442.060+

D-STAR 23cm: 1284.600-

DMR 70 cm: 442.4125 +5Mhz Color Code 1

Activities and Events

Hamfests:

March 15, WINTERFEST, The National Capital Area Ham Radio Fair, ARRL Virginia State Convention. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna Virginia, 22181. <https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest/>.

Contests/QSO Parties:

- **Feb. 9-13, ARRL School Club Roundup.** <https://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>
- **Feb. 14-15, OMISS QSO Party.**
<https://www.omiss.net/Facelift/qsoparty.php>
- **Feb. 28, South Carolina QSO Party.** <http://www.scqso.com>
- **March 1, North Carolina QSO Party.** <http://www.ncqso.org>
- **March 14-15, Oklahoma QSO Party.** <http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm>
- **March 14-15, Idaho QSO Party.** <https://www.idahoqsoparty.org/>
- **March 15, Wisconsin QSO Party.**
https://www.warac.org/wqp/wiqp_rules.htm

(Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

Special Events:

- **Feb. 14, 6th Annual Pluto Discovery Anniversary S.E., W7P.** Flagstaff, AZ, Northern Arizona DX Association. <https://www.nadxa.com/>
- **Feb 14-15, Washington's Birthday Special Event, K4US.** Mount Vernon Radio Club. <https://www.mvarc.org/events>
- **March 15, Battleship USS Wisconsin BB-64 on the air in honor of Wisconsin QSO party, N4WIS.** <https://n4wis.com/>

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

Next Meeting

Friday, February 14, 1900 hours, Alexandria Police Department HQ, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304.

Last Meeting

Date: January 9, 2026

Time: 1900 hours

Location: Alexandria Police Department HQ, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304.

1. For the January 9th meeting of the Alexandria Amateur Radio Club, 22 people were in attendance with 19 participating in the in-person meeting and 3 people in the online Zoom meeting.
2. Sean Gallagher, K4KBK, introduces Aaron Kahn, K6HLC, as president.
3. Visitor Introduction - Bert Flower, N1MXO, introduces himself to the club. His legal address is in New Hampshire but he is here doing some renovations on an apartment and found the club via the repeater.
4. General Member introductions around the room and on Zoom. Congrats to Larry, KQ4SBC, on his recent upgrade to General.
5. No certificates or special awards. Sean, K4KBK, mentions he has some Christmas Party awards that still need to be handed out.
6. Sean, K4KBK, will submit a written officer report to the club.
7. Aaron, K6HLC, begins “new business.” A financial audit committee needs to be appointed to review the club financials and submit a report by next meeting per the bylaws.
8. Introduction of 2026 officers and board members:

Aaron Kahn, K6HLC - President

William A. “Skip” Dronen, Jr., KO2THF - Vice President

Mike Joyce, KQ4WOI - Secretary

Richard Morani, KW4UJ - Treasurer

Sean Gallagher, K4KBK - Director

Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE - Director

Joe Porcelli, KT3I - Director

9. Completed Club Tasks - Aaron, K6HLC, notified the club that the repeater trustee has been updated and the club call sign has been renewed. Skip, KO2THF is the new trustee.
10. Richard, KW4UJ, reviewed the club financials. A few specific items were discussed:

- a. Treasurer report from 2025

- i. Income: \$3,100

- ii. Expenses: \$3,303

- iii. 2025: Net loss \$ -196

- b. Projected 2026

- i. 2026 Project Income: \$3,134

- ii. 2026 Project Expenses: \$3,354

- iii. 2026 Project Net loss: \$ -220

- c. RE Winterfest Tables (2 @ \$30 ea) Bob, KO4ZIK, mentions he received an email saying tables are sold out. Sean, K4KBK, received an email yesterday (1/8) asking that if tables were not needed they could be given to other clubs/organizations. Bob, KO4ZIK, reminds club members he has 4 boxes of equipment from an SK estate sale that needs to be sold/donated. Bob will be onsite to administer tests and can bring equipment, but is leaving and won't be back in the area until February. Don, KI4D states the estate does not want the money from any sales and it would be a donation to the club. The club will keep the tables at Winterfest as they are already budgeted and in need.
- d. Don, KI4D, asks why tax prep is included if we are becoming a 501c3. Richard, KW4UJ, mentions 2026 budget would be for tax year 2025.
- e. Sandy, KQ4DNE, motions to vote to approve the budget. Sean, K4KBK, seconds. Hand vote is taken: 2026 Budget is passed.

11. ARRL section manager vote - Nominee: Mike Aimone. Aaron, K6HLC, asks Sean. K4KBK, for more details. Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ, is chairman of the board at Vienna Wireless Society. ARRL election must be received by Feb. Sean believes Mike, WA8AHZ, is the right choice. He is local and would be a great voice for the region.
12. Winter Field Day (WFD) Skip, KO2THF, gives update.
 - a. Winter Field Day will be held on 1/24 and 1/25. Check reflector email for more detailed information on parking and setup times. If you want to bring your own equipment to test, feel free. We are operating 2 stations, so we need to coordinate who is transmitting. Aaron, K6HLC, has volunteered to call in on 2m / 70cm. Earlier warnings from the fire department are no longer valid. Joe P, KT3I, is working to stage fire equipment in other areas. Don, KI4D, asks about emergency power. We need 3 approvals to run on emergency power, we have 2 approvals. Sometime next week the decision will be made to run batteries/generators vs. emergency power.
 - b. Virtual training - Jan 20th, 8pm To set up logging software and JS8call using N3JFP.
 - c. Registering for dedicated time. Skip plans to invite other local clubs if they request dedicated time.
 - d. Roving mobile team.
 - e. Antenna display - ARES display.
 - f. Gary, KC5QCN, will be running a test session.
 - g. Bob, KO4ZIK, mentions if you are going to take a ham test, please pre-register so they have an idea of number.
13. Don, KI4D - Tomorrow Jan. 10th there will be a JS8call session. Joe P, KT3I, sent out email with details.
14. Ian, N8IK, mentions if you are a Tech you can still operate with oversight from a General or an Extra at Winter Field Day. Great opportunity to experience HF.

15. Bob, KO4ZIK, will be in California, spot via Discord and he will try to make contact.

16. Committee reports

- a. Membership Sandy, KQ4DNE- 4 New potential members sent postcard via mail.
- b. Public Affairs - Jan, KB2LRX
 - i. ARRL has designated 2026 as “Year of the Club,” and is sponsoring a club newsletter contest. Jan will be submitting our newsletter, ARC-SHORTS, along with a 500-word statement of purpose in hopes the letter will get selected. Richard, KW4UJ, will give Jan accurate club numbers for the entry form. Due Jan. 30th.
 - ii. ARRL Library Book sale – The club can donate 12 ARRL books to the Alexandria Library. Jan, KB2LRX, will contact the library about their interest in this program. If they want the books, we notify ARRL, which will send them directly. Jan mentions library has only 1 or 2 old ham radio books in their collection.
 - iii. World Amateur Radio Day - April 18th - could possibly set up trailer at library and combine with giving library books.
 - iv. Sean, K4KBK, mentions he has already been contacted to see if we will be submitting the Newsletter to the ARRL Year of the Club. Well done, Jan!
 - v. Don, KI4D, asks about US 250 - No current plans by Alexandria City.
- c. ARES - Allstar - Presentation moved to February. Joe K, KD2HZG. - Still doesn't have PoC at Em Center. Was asked by Joe P, KT3I, if he had hospital info. If anyone does, please reach out. Will have an Allstar node at Winter Field Day. Will be doing an Antenna display at Winter Field Day. Gary S., KC5QCN, and Ed, KQ4YGT, will have Allstar hotspots at Winter Field Day to demonstrate.
- d. Repeater: Ian, N8IK - all repeaters are good. Skip, KO2THF - We are forming a repeater committee to help with repeater relocation project to the new Inova hospital.
- e. EmComm - Stex, K4IEW, has been working on an EmComm presentation and will submit it to Aaron as new club president. Primarily used for schools to get interest and get new hams. He had the opportunity to attend a DMV EmComm meeting. His takeaway: continue to practice at things like Winter Field Day and Field Day so you can be prepared for emergency situations.
- f. Sandy, KQ4DNE - Feb. 12th Fairfax will be hosting a Skywarn class. Need to take class once every 3 years to stay current.
- g. Training & Testing: Richard, KW4UJ, will be working on the next class schedule. Gary, KC5QCN, mentions upcoming testing at Winter Field Day
- h. Trailer: Sean, K4KBK, is getting it ready for the events and parades.
Maintenance check and clean up before events.

- i. Webmaster: Richard, KW4UJ, looking for suggestions and working on building a membership only section.
- j. Social Media: No updates. Keep in mind Discord is not official club news. Official news will be delivered via Club Newsletter or Club Reflector.
- k. Nets: Bryan, WD4ADF - Thanks club members for getting everything scheduled.
 - i. No new Net Control Class. Let's use what we have. If you want to jump in without taking the class, it is not a barrier to entry.
 - ii. Special Nets: Please send email to Bryan if you are interested. Special Nets won't be scheduled unless there is interest.

17. Summer Field Day: Need a Field Day Lead. Skip, KO2THF, mentions if someone will be lead, he can almost certainly guarantee there will be at least 3 people who will volunteer to help you.

18. No New news about 501c3.

19. Reminder Winter Field Day will be in the training area of Fire Station 210 building. Park in the back of the building. Park at fence line, don't park right in front of building.

20. GW parade will be February 14th.

Club member comments:

Ian, N8IK- Please get LOTW if you are an HF op and not currently using it.

Sean, K4KBK, mentions, turn on your radios and monitor 315 that's how we meet new people.

Merch Update: Sean, K4KBK, gives update.

We are teaming up with the vendor who supports Berryville, "Gold Medal."

Will be submitting a draft order to get physical products.

Vendor will be designing website that you can access via our site so you can order direct from them. Expected delivery by end of February for round of test products. Bob, KO4ZIK, will contact SignMan at Hamcation. Send Bob hi res logos.

Motion to Adjourn 8:19pm

Mike Joyce - KQ4WOI
Secretary

Recorded Attendance, January 9th, 2026 (19 in person, 3 remotely)

Aaron, K6HLC	Sandy, KQ4DNE	Don, KI4D	Bryan, WD4ADF	Erik, KI4BXU
Skip, KO2THF	Jan, KB2LRX	Wilson, KM4KLK	Stex, K4IEW	Joe K, KD2HZG
Richard, KW4UJ	Ian, N8IK	Evan, KQ4UPW	Gary N, KC7TNU	
Mike, KQ4WOI	Gary S, KC5QCN	Larry, KQ4SBC	Oleg, KZ4FY	
Sean, K4KBK	Bob, KO4ZIK	Bert, N1MXO	Austin, KQ4ZCO	

Club Leadership

Elected Officers for 2026 *

Aaron Kahn, K6HLC—President

William A. “Skip” Dronen, Jr., KO2THF

—Vice President

Mike Joyce, KQ4WOI—Secretary

Richard Morani, KW4UJ—Treasurer

Elected Board of Directors, At Large*

Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE

Joseph A. Porcelli, KT3I

Sean Gallagher, K4KBK

* 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