



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club

May 2026

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Gary Sessums (KC5QCN) demonstrated SSTV at our last meeting. Story below.

President's Corner

Aaron Kahn (K6HLC)

There has not been too much happening at my QTH over the last month. I did make a new 49:1 UNUN using a new Type 53 toroid core. I did find that this gave about a 1 dB reduction in loss when compared to my prior Type 43 UNUN. For those interested in constructing their own end-fed antennas and winding your own transformers there are two references I would suggest. First is [Performance of 49:1 Ferrite Cores](#). The second reference is [Optimizing the Design of Large Ratio UNUN Transformers from Tests and Simulations](#). Best of luck with all of your projects, and I look forward to hearing how your most recent project turns out.

Till next time,

73, Aaron, K6HLC

Member News

ARC Offers Radio Training to Alexandria's Citizens Corps Council

Sean Gallagher (K4K BK) spoke at the Alexandria's Citizens Corps Council Information Night, April 20, to brief the organization on radio's importance in emergencies and to offer the Alexandria Radio Club's help in establishing radio training for volunteer members of Council organizations.



The **Alexandria Citizen Corps Council (CCC)** exists to “advise and support the City Council of Alexandria to help Alexandria minimize the impact of disaster through prevention, preparation, and effective response measures.” Member organizations include the **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**, the **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**, the **Red Cross**, and **Volunteer Alexandria**. The Alexandria Radio Club will soon join as a member organization.

Sean described how ARC provides amateur radio communications in support of the **Office of Emergency Management** within the Emergency Operations Center, at established City Shelters, and at the Alexandria Hospital.

He continued by describing how club members could train and support radio operators in city-wide communication during emergencies, using primarily **Family Radio Service (FMRS)** and the **General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)** equipment in addition to amateur radio.

Under this plan, ARC members would operate as the Volunteer Communications Group (VCG). It would:

- **Establish Frequency Plans** for each individual group such as CERT, MRC, and Volunteer Alexandria.
- **Review radio system transceivers** and make recommendations to the City for acquisition of new gear.
- **Ensure** radios and systems are performing to their design limits.
- **Train** radio operations, etiquette and communications protocol.
- **Conduct** radio exercises and drills in conjunction with Alexandria Radio Club Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) team.



As part of the Information Night, Sean and other club members displayed two-way radios and other gear at their demonstration table and encouraged visitors to get involved in radio at any level they felt comfortable. Several people took club literature and expressed interest in joining. Pictured from left: Stex-K4IEW, Jan-KB2LRX, Sandy-KQ4DNE, Sean-K4KBB.

New Technicians from ARC Licensing Class

Five students from the club's Spring Licensing Class passed the examination for Technician on May 5. Congratulations to:

Christopher Haughton, Matthew Henzler, Tyler Richmond, Francois X, Le, and Elizabeth Nguyen.

Club Donates Ham Radio Books to Alexandria Public Library

The Alexandria Radio Club has donated a set of eleven books about amateur radio to the Alexandria Public Library. The books, published by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), include study guides for the three amateur license classes, and introductions to basic electronics, antennas, station set-up, and other topics essential to ham radio. They will be shelved at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Pictured from left: **Allison Carmola**, Adult Services Manager, Beatley; and club members **Sean Gallagher-K4KBK** (Past President), **Aaron Kahn-K6HLC** (President), and **Jan Maas-KB2LRX** (Public Information Officer).



The complete set is available through a special library program sponsored by ARRL:

The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications (softcover)

The ARRL Antenna Book for Radio Communications (softcover)

The ARRL Operating Manual for Radio Amateurs

The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual

The ARRL General Class License Manual

The ARRL Extra Class License Manual

Understanding Basic Electronics

Basic Antennas – Understanding Practical Antennas and Designs

Get On the Air with HF Digital

Your First Amateur Radio HF Station

FCC Rules & Regulations for the Amateur Radio Service

Activities and Events

Last Meeting Highlights

Using SSTV for Disaster Assessment

At our April meeting, **Gary Sessums (KC5QCN)** gave a hands-on demonstration of Slow-Scan Television (SSTV) and described how it can be used in disaster assessment.

Slow-scan television (SSTV) transmits still pictures using HF, VHF and UHF radio frequencies. In an emergency, SSTV can be used as an alternative to other image transmission systems when normal communication methods are overwhelmed or destroyed.

In his demonstration, Gary asked members to download an app to their cell phones and then transmitted sample pictures. The results came in after only a few minutes.



Top: Gary-KC5QCN points out SSTV set-up. Left: Sandy-KQ4DNE (seated) and Maitland-AA4HS prepare to receive pictures on cell phones. Right: A sample of transmitted pictures. In an emergency, SSTV can get through “when all else fails.”

May Meeting Preview

This month, **Don Lewis (KI4D)** has coordinated a special presentation from **Greg Mihran, KJ6ER**, inventor of the PERformer antenna and a family of antennas.

KJ6ER Antennas designs efficient and effective portable antennas for the every-ham that focus on the optimal integration of performance (high radiation efficiency), elegance (speed and simplicity of deployment) and convenience (ease of transport and storage). These designs are always shared for free with the global amateur radio community to encourage more radio operators to homebrew their own portable antennas. KJ6ER Antennas Family – bit.ly/KJ6ERAntennasFamily

EmComm Notes

Alexandria Radio Club Lends a Hand at the 2026 Cherry Blossom 10-Miler

On **Sunday, April 12**, members of the **Alexandria Radio Club (ARC)** joined a dedicated team of volunteer amateur radio operators from across the District to support the **2026 Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run**. Coordinating the communications for such a massive event is no small feat, and our team worked under the expert leadership of **Elizabeth Goodson**, who managed the amateur radio volunteers for the day.

The event, often called “The Runner’s Rite of Spring,” saw over **20,000 athletes** take to the scenic streets of Washington, D.C. Beyond the competition, the race was a massive philanthropic success, raising over **\$506,000 for the Children’s Miracle Network**, providing vital support to pediatric hospitals across North America.

Operational Challenges and Lessons Learned

The day began with a bite in the air, as the morning chill tested the resolve of both runners and volunteers. As the race progressed, the operational

environment became increasingly demanding. The sheer density of the crowd and the logistical activity created an **extremely noisy environment**, making clear radio communications a challenge.

For those of us on the course, the experience provided invaluable “real-world” training. While the scenario wasn’t overly complex from a technical standpoint, the ambient noise highlighted the importance of station ergonomics and equipment selection:

- **Audio Isolation:** In such loud conditions, standard handheld speakers or single-ear pieces struggled. A major takeaway for future events is the need for **high-quality, over-the-ear headphones** that cover both ears to provide total isolation from the environment.
- **Self-Sufficiency:** It was inspiring to see the setups of fellow operators. Several colleagues arrived with impressive “go-kits,” featuring **full autonomy** for long hours and **redundant equipment** (backup radios and batteries), ensuring they remained on-air regardless of technical hiccups.

A Team Effort

We are incredibly proud of our members who stepped up to ensure the safety and coordination of the race. Their professionalism and technical skill reflect the best traditions of the amateur radio service.

A huge thank you to the ARC team members who participated:

- **Sean, K4KBK**
- **Sandy, KQ4DNE**
- **Joe, KT3I**
- **Alex, KO4ZMC**
- **Mike, KB3DQI**

Helping to facilitate an event that raises half a million dollars for children’s health is a true honor. We look forward to being back on the course next year—hopefully with some new noise-canceling headphones in tow!

Stex, K4IEW

Club Merchandise Now Available

<https://alexandriarc.goldmedalideas.com/>

Items include caps and shirts in many sizes.

They can include the club logo and a member's call sign.

Alexandria Radio Club Date Book

Coming Events

Sunday, May 31, 1300-1600: D-Day Commemoration. John Carlisle Square, Alexandria.

Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28. Field Day. Chinquapin Park.

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**

Hamfests:

- **May 15-17, Dayton Hamvention®** Xenia, OH. <https://hamvention.org/>
- **Saturday, June 20, Manassas Hamfest.** Sponsored by Old Virginia Hams. Colgan High School, 13833 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA. <https://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest/>

Contests/QSO Parties:

- **May 16-17. Arkansas QSO Party.** <https://www.arkqp.com/>
(Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

Special Events:

- **May 15-16, National Maritime Day, K3S.** Nuclear Ship Savannah Amateur Radio Club, Baltimore, MD. <http://www.qrz.com/db/K3S>
- **May 18-24, The Indianapolis 500 - Race Two, W9IMS.** Indianapolis, IN. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC. <http://www.w9ims.org>
- **June 1-14, D-Day Commemoration, W2W.** Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum, Middle River, MD.
- **June 6-7, Historic Ships Weekend. USS Wisconsin Museum Ship on the Air, Battleship USS Wisconsin (BB-64) N4WIS.** Norfolk, VA. <https://n4wis.com/>

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

Next Meeting

Friday, May 8, 1900 hours, Alexandria Police Department HQ, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304.

Last Meeting Minutes

Date: April 10, 2026

Time: 1900 hours

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

1. Call to Order & Opening

- Meeting called to order by Aaron Kahn, K6HLC at 1900 hours.
- Club member introductions were conducted.
- New members / visitors: None.
- Silent Keys: None.

Pre-Meeting Presentation:

- Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, delivered a presentation on SSTV (Slow Scan Television) prior to the meeting.

2. Awards & Certificates

- No awards or certificates to present since the last meeting.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Aaron, K6HLC, asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the last meeting. None were noted.
- Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes made by Sean, K4KBK. Motion seconded by Richard, KW4UJ.
- Result: Minutes approved.

4. Recent Events

Vienna Wireless Winterfest – Summary by Gary, KC5QCN

- The test session went well; all but 2 participants passed. Tom passed his Extra class exam.
- Bob obtained a great deal on an ID-52 radio.
- Silent Key (SK) items brought in \$248.

Special 70cm Net

- 13 stations checked in; participation was good.
- A special HF net is scheduled for tomorrow, April 11th.
- In two weeks, 6m net is scheduled. Gary asked when the SSTV net will be scheduled – a club decision is needed.

5. Upcoming Events

- Cherry Blossom Run – April 11th (5K) and April 12th (10-Miler). Club support needed.
- Special HF Net – April 11th at 11:00 AM on 80m or 40m. Monitor the 2m repeater for updates. KI4D will be backup net controller.
- 4/20 – Special 6m Net.
- D-Day Commemoration – May 31st (always the Sunday before June 6th). Meet and greet event with the public. More information to follow.

- Summer Field Day – Still seeking a Field Day lead for 2026. Aaron, K6HLC, gave a quick summary of Field Day lead expectations. Members interested should reach out to Aaron or the Board.

6. Officer Reports

Board Report – Skip, KO2THF

- Skip thanked Gary for his SSTV presentation.
- Next month's meeting presentation: KJ6ER, inventor of the POTA PERFormer, will present.

Secretary Report – Mike, KQ4WOI

- No corrections to previous meeting minutes noted.

Treasurer Report – Richard, KW4UJ

- Profit & Loss for March: Net income of \$638.61.
- Bank checking account balance: \$1,246.00.
- Outstanding checks: \$585.94.
- Actual Accounting balance: \$540.71.

7. Committee Reports

Membership – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- Congrats to our new Extra Class operator in the club.
- A new member, KR3BST, has also just joined.

Public Information Officer – Jan, KB2LRX

- The book donation from the Alexandria Radio Club to the Alexandria Public Library has been completed.
- The library is open to hosting a club photo for publicity purposes.

Repeater Status – Ian, N8IK

- The DMR machine has been fixed. A new code plug has been uploaded, bypassing the old router due to the expired VPN certificate.
- DMR is now directly connected to the D-STAR router.
- Members can use the echotest on D-STAR to confirm DMR internet connectivity.

Emergency Communications – Stex, K4IEW

- Nothing new to report; continuing to build operational experience.
- Sandy reminded Stex of a SKYWARN class specializing in flood reporting.
- Stex provided a brief summary of SKYWARN: it is a voluntary program to train participants in proper severe weather reporting.
- Sandy added that members who have taken SKYWARN previously but not for the National Capital Region (NCR) must take the NCR-specific course. Fairfax and other EOCs use SKYWARN in operations.

Training and Testing – Richard, KW4UJ

- Licensing class is currently in session. Testing is planned for May.

Trailer – Sean, K4KBK

- Trailer is operational. Getting ready for Field Day and Tons of Trucks event.

Webmaster – Richard, KW4UJ

- Prototype of the members-only website is live and currently under testing.

- Current features include: link to the apparel ordering page and a full club roster with dues status.

Socials – Jason, WA6MPR

- Jason not present – no updates.

Net Control – Bryan, WD4ADF

- Special HF Net: April 11th at 11:00 AM on 80m; switch to 40m if needed. KI4D will serve as backup net controller. Monitor the 2m repeater for directions.
- Special 6m Net: April 20th.

Summer Field Day

- Still seeking a Field Day lead for 2026. Volunteers encouraged to come forward – support will be provided. The park is already reserved; planning must begin.

8. Old Business

- Name Plates – Bob, KO4ZIK: A decision is needed on the name plate proof. Pending Board action.
- Field Day Equipment Storage – Erik, KI4BXU: Erik has been storing Field Day equipment in his personal storage unit for approximately 1.5–2 years. He requires 24 hours' notice for pickup. The Board will discuss at the next meeting and provide Erik with a response. Erik requests an answer by June 21st. The question of securing dedicated club storage space was raised.

9. New Business

Upcoming Events

- Cherry Blossom 5K – April 11th.
- Cherry Blossom 10-Miler – April 12th.

Club Calendar

- The calendar on the ARC website is up to date. Members are encouraged to notify the club if any events are missing.

10. General Comments

- Stex, K4IEW: Testing his QRP radio. Participated in the VA QSO Party and made contact with Hungary, confirmed via LOTW.
- Bob, KO4ZIK: Worked Bouvet Island on 40m FT8.
- Skip, KO2THF: Participated in VA QSO Party using PSK31 with FL Digi – a positive experience. Skip plans to try FL Digi for Field Day. Ian noted that FT8 also supports a Field Day exchange.
- Ian, N8IK: Received a QSL card from Iran for a contact made approximately one year ago.
- Don, KI4D: Demonstrated Ed Fong antenna sticks, including 2m/440/1.25m versions. A GMRS stick by Ed Fong is also available. The club held a teleconference with Ed in 2016, he is published in QST magazine. Antennas feature multiple J-pole configurations, are handmade by Ed's graduate students, and can be painted Matte Deep Grey (Krylon brand) for stealth – Ed Fong has confirmed this does not affect the radiation pattern. Also available via Ham 2.0 online; noted to sell quickly when back in stock (currently in stock).

- Sean, K4KBK: Special event with Alexandria Citizen Corps on Monday, April 20th, at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center. Goal is to build an FRS/GMRS/HAM radio layered communications system.

Note: The formal meeting was briefly paused to acknowledge the Artemis II splashdown. Congratulations to all involved.

11. Action Items

Responsible Party	Action Item
Aaron, K6HLC / Board	Follow up with any Field Day lead volunteers
Erik, KI4BXU	Receive answer from Board by June 21st re: Field Day equipment storage solution.
Board	Discuss storage space options at the next board meeting and provide Erik an answer. Discuss Name plate proofs
Bob, KO4ZIK	Await Board decision on name plate proof approval.
Sean, K4KBK	Coordinate Alexandria Citizen Corps special event (4/20) – FRS/GMRS/HAM layered comm system.
Richard, KW4UJ	Continue testing members-only prototype website; expand features as testing progresses.
All Members	Volunteer to lead Summer Field Day 2026 – contact Aaron or the Board. Planning must begin now.
All Members Interested	Sign up for Cherry Blossom 5K (Apr 11) and/or 10-Miler (Apr 12) support.

12. Adjournment

- Motion to close the formal meeting at 8:28 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by: Mike Joyce, KQ4WOI

Email questions to secretary@w4hfh.org

Detailed Meeting Attendance

Recorded Attendance, April 10, 2026 (20 in person, 0 remotely)

Aaron, K6HLC	Sandy, KQ4DNE	Don, KI4D	Richard, KW4UJ	Skip, KO2THF
Jay, KV3W	Bob, KO4ZIK	Bryan, WD4ADF	Ian, N8IK	Stex, K4IEW
Ted, W9TCE	Gary, KC7TNU	Mike, KQ4WOI	Mait, AA4HS	Tom L, NH7XJ
Jan, KB2LRX	Sean, K4KBK	John, KE4JEM	Gary, KC5QCN	Erik, KI4BXU

1 member remotely attended the presentation but did not stay for the club meeting.

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:

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