



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
September 2026

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Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, won an Alinco DJ-W70 handheld at the Huntsville Hamfest. Story below.

President's Corner

Aaron Kahn (K6HLC)

This has been a quiet month for myself and family. Most of the effort has been on back-to-school things, which unfortunately meant not a lot of radio fun. I did get the time to build a version of the POTA Performer (<https://kj6er.net/>) and test it out in the back yard. It worked well, and I was able to get the predicted SWR as computed from 4NEC2 (<https://www.qsl.net/4nec2/>). I also put together a mobile LiFe battery pack with the hope to try POTA as the weather gets cooler.

On club news, **we have sent out the 501(c)3 documents** for review by someone with way more knowledge of the legal stuff on this topic than me. The board is

awaiting the response on whether the documents look satisfactory. Once this is received, we look forward to presenting the new documents to the Club for review, suggestion, and vote. **Reminder that the Club meeting will be a week later (Sept 18) due to the September 11 remembrance.**

Till next time, Aaron (K6HLC)

Pentagon Club to Mark 9/11 Anniversary

The Pentagon Amateur Radio Club, which includes several Alexandria Club members, will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the September 11th attacks by operating a special event station, K4AF, on that date. Operating hours are 0800-2000, SSB on 20 and 40 meters. Everyone is encouraged to make contact in remembrance of the events. A commemorative QSL card will be available through K4AF.org.



Member News

Welcome New Members

Benjamin Abramson–KC3EGG

Eric Parker–KG4DZA

ARC Goes to Huntsville

ARC members **Richard Morani, K4UJ**, and **Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK**, attended the ARRL National Convention in Huntsville, AL, August 21-23. Bob won an Alinco DJ-W70 hand-held and attended several workshops. The topic at one, he reports,

was about the state of Ham Radio and how to engage more people, especially youth. What are clubs doing to engage new hams? Some groups are forming outside of clubs to engage in activities outside the business side of a club. Many don't want to be part of the business side, they want to play radio, learn new things, and get together and have workshops to teach others.

Activities and Events

Jones Point Lighthouse Activated: The ARC Flag Flies Over ILLW 2026

By Stex (K4IEW)

On Saturday, August 15, the Alexandria Radio Club officially put the historic Jones Point Lighthouse on the air for the International Lighthouse Lightships Weekend (ILLW). Operating as a team under the summer sun, Sean (K4KBK) and I (K4IEW) represented the club during a condensed six-hour operational window from 09:00 to 15:00 local time.

While our total QSO tally was admittedly modest, the operational challenges we overcame were nothing short of legendary!

Propagation was far from ideal, and our operating location directly beneath the massive reinforced concrete spans of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge certainly added a healthy dose of RF attenuation to the mix. However, the true test of endurance came from the immediate environment.

At my station, I found myself battling an unidentified species of aggressive local insects—bugs so exotic I'm convinced they haven't been cataloged by entomologists yet. In addition to curious park visitors, I had to contend with local runners and energetic dogs who seemed to view my antenna guy-wire stakes, bright orange safety cones notwithstanding, as a personal agility course.



Stex, K4IEW, (above) and Sean, K4KBK, operate at Jones Point on International Lighthouse Lightships Weekend.



Sean (K4KBK), demonstrating superior tactical wisdom, set up his station under the shade of a large tree nearby. His primary battle was of a logistical nature: Parks and Rec crews chose that exact Saturday morning to drop off a massive shipment of brand-new picnic tables right around his operating position! And still we are very grateful for the new tables, very much needed.

Despite the meager logbook, tough band conditions, and unique field hazards, we successfully planted the ARC flag for ILLW 2026 and ensured Alexandria was represented in this global event.

A big thanks to everyone who stopped by or listened out for us on the air. See you at the next Field Day activation!

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

GMRS: 467.625+ (PL 123.0)

Club Merchandise Now Available

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

**Order caps and shirts
with the ARC logo and your call sign.**

Contests/QSO Parties:

- **Sept. 12-13. Ohio State Parks On the Air.** <https://ospota.org>
(Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

Special Events:

- **Sept. 11-12. Pentagon 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001.**
1200Z-0100Z, K4AF. Fairfax, VA. <http://www.k4af.org>.
- **Sept. 12-20. Route 66 On the Air. 000Z-2359Z, W6H.** Rio Rancho, NM.
Albuquerque DX Association. <https://www.qrz.com/db/W6H>.
- **Oct. 17. Yorktown Special Event. 1400Z-2000Z, K4RC.** Williamsburg,
VA, Amateur Radio Club. <https://www.k4rc.net>
(Selected from ARRL Special Events Calendar <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

Next Meeting

Friday, September 18, 1900 hours, Alexandria Police Department HQ, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304.

Last Meeting Minutes

Date: August 14, 2026

Time: 1900 hours

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

1. Call to Order & Opening

- Meeting called to order at 1900 hours.
- Club member introductions were conducted.
- New members / visitors: Ishmael, KE2EKQ, welcomed, here for a college internship from RIT.

2. Awards & Certificates

- Stex, K4IEW – Golden Hunter, Parks on the Air.
- Bryan, WD4ADF – 15 Contacts, Arlington High Operator Award, VA QSO Party
- Bob, KO4ZIK – 13 Colonies Certificate

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- No corrections to the minutes from the last meeting were noted.
- Motion made to approve the minutes; motion seconded.
- Result: Minutes approved.

4. Recent Events

National Night Out – Sandy, Stex, Sean, Aaron

- Ice cream was delicious.
- Met the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.
- A few kids stopped by to spin the dial and play radio.
- One Scout mom asked the club to help with her son's troop.
- Mark, the Emergency Management Coordinator, also stopped by.

Citizens Corps Council – Sean, Skip, Aaron

- Sean invited Skip and Aaron to attend.
- The council was very impressed with the club's skill set and wants to utilize the club to help train radio usage for various volunteer activities.
- Most volunteer organizations currently use FRS; the club is encouraging a move to GMRS, or ideally toward getting a ham license so members can use repeaters.
- The club is hopeful this relationship will help open access to more city resources.

GMRS Discussion

- Bob asked if anyone had heard about a recent incident in Georgia involving illegally linked GMRS repeaters spanning the state; the FCC issued the operator a cease and desist for running the system without proper licensing.

5. Upcoming Events

- Tons of Trucks – September 26th, Chinquapin Park.
- Winter Field Day – January 23rd–24th. The club is looking for a location; the fire department is not an option this year since the club's contact there has retired.
- Sean raised the idea of Ivy Cemetery as a possible Winter Field Day location. Marnie expressed concern about being set up on gravestones; Sean agreed further discussion on antenna placement would be needed. Sean knows a board member there and noted the cemetery has a building that could serve as a conference room, so the location seems to have potential.
- Members are asked to bring forward other location ideas (churches, American Legion, etc.) to club leadership or the board; Sean is willing to chase down leads but is looking for club input.

6. Officer Reports

VP Report – Skip, WD1W

- Skip was on vacation in Puerto Rico and not present.

Secretary Report – Mike, KQ4WOI

- No corrections to the previous meeting minutes noted; minutes approved.

Treasurer Report – Richard, KW4UJ

- Profit & Loss for July: Net loss of -\$2.80.
- Basic checking balance: \$2,411.70; outstanding checks: \$2,041.14; actual operable balance: \$370.56.
- Total in the bank: \$14,502.17.

7. Committee Reports

Membership – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- 1 new member: Alan, KA3ZQY.

Public Information Officer – Jan, KB2LRX

- The ARRL newsletter contest results are in; the club did not win among the 80 submissions across the large, medium, and small newsletter categories.
- Books previously donated to the library are now in circulation; Jan confirmed they are actively being checked out.
- Jan asked whether meeting minutes should go out separately rather than only appearing in the newsletter. Mike gave a quick overview of the minutes process: meeting audio is recorded and compared against notes taken during the meeting, the notes are then run through Claude for grammar and formatting consistency, proofread again, and sent to Jan.
- Club members in attendance agreed that minutes should go out earlier, with a second copy included in the newsletter. The target is to send minutes via the reflector within two weeks of the club meeting, with Jan continuing to include them in the newsletter.

Repeater Status – Ian, N8IK (reported by Sean)

- Ian was at a family event; Sean gave the update in his place.
- The club is hoping to secure a repeater site at the new hospital, pending resolution of helipad restrictions and other considerations.
- Sterret Carter, a retiree with 35 years of wireless communications experience, is assisting; the club also hopes to get Erik Parker to return and help.
- A volunteer is needed to help draft a command briefing so the club has a solid pitch for the hospital on why hosting the club's repeaters would be beneficial. Jan noted he has a fact sheet that could serve as a starting point.

- Bob asked what the plan would be if the hospital declines, and recommended highlighting the club's support for DC and Virginia during national security events. Bob also suggested the club could join the hospital's existing antenna farm, and that the presentation should highlight coverage deadzones and antenna transmission patterns to demonstrate the value of the investment.

Emergency Communications / ARES – Stex, K4IEW

- Stex has officially been appointed Emergency Coordinator for the City of Alexandria.
- Stex is working on a document illustrating the importance of ham radio for emergency communications.
- On 8/15, Stex will activate Jones Point Lighthouse under the club callsign W4HFH as part of International Lighthouse Lightships Weekend, starting at 8:00 AM in the large field south of the parking lot; interested members are welcome to join.
- On 9/11, there will be a special event station commemorating the 25th anniversary of 9/11; see the Pentagon website for specific times.

Training and Testing – Richard, KW4UJ

- A training class is a possibility for October; Richard needs to review with Ian to see if he can support it.
- Bob will be OCONUS for October and November, making it difficult to run a class with only two instructors. Sean offered to help.
- Richard will send out an invite to gauge instructor interest and will set up a session to review the curriculum.
- Testing sessions in partnership with Arlington have been going well.

Trailer – Sean, K4KBK

- Trailer is in good shape; Richard and Sean are looking into mounting a TV screen in the trailer.

Webmaster – Richard, KW4UJ

- No update.

Socials – Jason, WA6MPR

- Mike thanked Stex and Sandy for sending in photos for socials. Members are encouraged to continue uploading photos of their radio activities to Discord so Mike can post them to Instagram.

Net Control – Bryan, WD4ADF

- Mike will take over the net control schedule while Bryan is OCONUS.
- The special 70cm net had 9 participants; thanks to all who joined.
- The next special net will be a joint special net with Mount Vernon.
- Depending on interest, additional special nets may be planned for October.

Nominating Committee – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- Preparing for elections in November.

- Since Gary's passing, Sandy is looking for someone to help run elections; interested members should reach out to Sandy at askenyon4@gmail.com or membership@w4hfh.org.

8. Old Business

- Club Merch is available at alexandriaarc.goldmedalideas.com.
- Don asked for an update on 501(c)(3) status. Aaron reported multiple inquiries to "Liz" with no response by email or phone. An alternate CPA has been identified to review the documents, and the club is considering moving forward with them. Revised Articles and Bylaws have been drafted; the board is awaiting feedback and approval before submitting them to the club for review and a final vote.
- Don asked whether the current proposed Articles and Bylaws could be submitted to the club for review now rather than waiting for CPA feedback; Aaron noted the request.

9. New Business

- Motion to move the September 11th meeting to September 18th; motion seconded; vote taken; motion approved.
- Proposal to start an HF equipment loaner program for members who are recent Generals. Sean noted this could help with storage issues and asked whether the club would loan full kits versus partial kits. Aaron has 3 kits missing only antennas and offered to build dipoles for them. Don raised the need for a formal sign-out process, a clear policy, and a transparent inventory of who has what equipment and when it is due back.
- Motion to move forward with the loaner program and develop a process; motion seconded; vote taken; motion approved.
- Preview for next month: a special presentation on the Marine Corps Marathon. The Marine Corps Marathon needs volunteers for October 25th, including an 8K on Saturday.

10. General Comments

- Sean shared plans for Gary Sessums' Celebration of Life at Columbia Island Marina, with invitations extended to all NOVA radio clubs, the Fairlington social club, and the Shirlington running club. Sean will solicit the group whether we should have full meals versus heavy snacks. He has reviewed catering pricing from Columbia Island Marina, noting the marina is very busy from 11:00 AM on. The group is looking at a 12:00–4:00 PM window on a Sunday (adjusted from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM since many attendees will be at church until noon), with food served around 1:30 PM. Sean noted the earliest available Sunday would be in early September.
- Scott recently reached out to Rapid Radio for information; he has an appointment with the FCC to discuss how they are operating without licenses.

Calendar

- Quick review of the calendar, which can be found on the website.

Ask an Elmer

- Mike asked whether operating from a different location (a parent's or in-law's backyard, etc.) requires modifying one's call sign to indicate the different state. General consensus was to simply use a separate log, with no need to modify the call sign.

11. Action Items

Responsible Party	Action Item
Sean, K4KBK / Club Members	Continue planning Gary Sessums' Celebration of Life at Columbia Island Marina; confirm date (targeting a Sunday in early September) and catering plan.
Jan, KB2LRX	Share the existing fact sheet as a starting point for the hospital repeater site pitch.
Volunteer Needed	Draft a command briefing outlining the value of a repeater site to the hospital, including deadzone coverage, antenna patterns, and support for DC/Virginia national security events.
Richard, KW4UJ	Send an invite to gauge interest in serving as an instructor for the possible upcoming training class, and set up a curriculum review session.
Aaron, K6HLC / Board	Continue pursuing 501(c)(3) status; follow up with the alternate CPA and finalize revised Articles and Bylaws before submitting to the club for review and vote.
Board	Develop a formal sign-out policy and inventory process for the new HF equipment loaner program.
Sandy, KQ4DNE	Recruit a volunteer to assist with the Nominating Committee ahead of November elections.
Mike, KQ4WOI	Cover the Net Control schedule while Bryan, WD4ADF, is OCONUS.
Mike, KQ4WOI	Begin distributing meeting minutes via the reflector within two weeks of each meeting, ahead of newsletter publication.

12. Adjournment

- Motion to close the formal meeting at 8:16 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by: Mike Joyce, KQ4WOI

Email questions to secretary@w4hfh.org

Detailed Meeting Attendance

Recorded Attendance, August 14th, 2026 (17 in person, 1 remotely)

Mike, KQ4WOI	Sandy, KQ4DNE	Ted, W9TCE	Mait, AA4HS	Don, KI4D
Aaron, K6HLC	Stex, K4IEW	Sterrett, K4MBE	Scott, W6GOU	
Jan, KB2LRX	Bob, KO4ZIK	Bryan, WD4ADF		
Sean, K4KBK	Marnie, N9AWG	Louis, KO4QVB		
Richard, KW4UJ	Gary, KC7TNU	Ishmael, KE2EKQ		

Club Leadership

Elected Officers for 2026 *

Aaron Kahn, K6HLC—President

William A. “Skip” Dronen, Jr., WD1W
—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

Public Information Officer (PIO)—Jan
Maas, KB2LRX

ARES & EmComm Division—Stefano
“Stex” Fonda, W4IEW

Club Leadership Group members may be contacted using the following email addresses:

<<mailto:president@w4hfh.org>> president@w4hfh.org

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