

# ARC-SHORTS

September 2011

*Club Repeaters: 147.315 (PL 107.2), 444.6 (PL107.2), 224.82 (PL107.2), 53.13 (PL107.2), 927.6 (-25Mhz, PL107.2), and 1282.600 (PL 107.2), DSTAR 145.38Mhz, 442.060, and 1284.600*

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING**

Our next meeting is October 14th at the INOVA Alexandria Hospital in the Health Education Center (HEC) located to the west of the main visitor entrance. The hospital address is: 4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. We meet at 7 PM and must leave by 9 PM. This month's program has not yet been determined, but we have a great deal of club business to talk about. MCM is on October 30<sup>th</sup> and we will have elections in November and December is the Club party.

## **SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Our program in September program was a run down on ARES. Our EC, Rick N4ASX provide a run down on how ARES functions, who is supported and how one can participate.

## **EVENTS IN September**

No hurricanes, no earthquakes and the rains have finally stopped for a few days. Nubbies on the air went well with Jeremy KF7IJZ in the lead. We will be doing this again.

## **UP COMING EVENTS**

The big event in October other than Halloween is the Marine Corps Marathon. If you've not signed up it's too late, but you can listen to the nets as this event has about 5 voice nets going on local FM repeaters on 2 meters and 440Mhz. Some of the voice nets may be on D-Star, but the race nets will be on 2 meter FM. They are busy nets so, listen only. This event is held in Arlington and in DC and those in VA need to be on site BEFORE 4AM. And as this is the end fo the race as well as the start these volunteers may not get to depart until 5PM or so.

Tech / General Class has started!

The Fall 2011 training class kicked off October 4 with eight students. A little smaller than previous classes, but it looks like a good group. Everybody was excited to learn about amateur radio. The previous knowledge of amateur radio ranged from very little to fairly extensive. We often see students who didn't get into amateur radio earlier because of other commitments, but now have the time. Good luck to all and we look forward to hearing some new calls on the air in December. Let's welcome them into the amateur radio fraternity.

## **HAMFESTS and CONTESTS**

Hamfests –

October 23 Hamfest at the Carrol County Agricultural Center in Maryland. Its the very last hamfest for the season around here until Odenton in January.

Contests –

October is a busy month for contests. Starting with the weekend of October 15, Iowa, New York and Illinois all have QSO parties that weekend. The exchange is a signal report and your state.

Running during the week of October 17, is the School Club Roundup. Clubs from junior high schools, high schools and colleges are all on the air. We can certainly contact school clubs, but the competition is between the schools. Most of us will fall into the individual category. Since the School Club Roundup is an all week activity, there is less pressure to make as many contacts in a short period of time.

The weekend of October 22 and 23 gives us the W/VE Islands QSO party. The object here is to contact as many stations on islands in the US and Canada. The exchange is signal report and your state or your North American Island designator. The US Islands Awards website at [www.usislands.org](http://www.usislands.org) has details on the awards program. QST did a story about the program a few years back about how popular the awards are and how amateurs are putting more and more North American islands on the air. Just in Virginia alone, there are 59 islands, of which 39 qualify for US Islands Award Program. You could work an island you didn't know existed.

The weekend of October 29 and 30 is great contest for working DX. Its the CQ World Wide SSB contest. Stations from all around the world will be on trying to work each other. The exchange is very simple, the signal report and your CQ zone. We are in CQ Zone 5.

Coming in November is the ARRL Sweepstakes. This is a great way to work toward Worked All States. The CW portion is the weekend of November 5 and 6, while the SSB portion is the weekend of November 19 and 20. The exchange in this contest is a little more complicated. It includes a serial number, an operating class, year you were first licensed and your ARRL section.

With the excellent band conditions the past several weeks, 10 meters has been open to Europe and the Pacific. So, Technicians can get a real taste of DX on 10 meters. So, take advantage of the great band openings and work some DX. There have been countries that have not been heard around here in many years.

73,

Rich, KA4GFY

## **President's Corner**

Finally, the rain has stopped just in time for the cool days of autumn to arrive. And with autumn, one of the biggest ham activities in the Washington area occurs—the Marine Corps Marathon. Hams have been involved in this activity pretty much since its inception in 1976, and have partnered with the Corps in making the event one that regularly attracts over 30,000 registered participants. The Marathon is now the largest marathon in the world that doesn't offer prize money, and ranks as the fifth largest in the United States and ninth in the world. And, it is one that regularly attracts over 100+ hams from throughout the greater Washington area, including West Virginia. I think that this may be one of the largest regularly occurring public service activities in the United States that involves this number of ham radio operators in a variety of support operations, ranging from “eyes on the course” to providing assistance at aid stations throughout the course. The planning for this type of event goes on for many months, and helps in providing hams the tools and information they may need for future public service events. I have been involved for several years in providing assistance for this event, and each time come away with a renewed sense of appreciation for what the amateur radio community is capable of doing on a large scale. I know several ARC members are actively involved in this year's activities, and I encourage other ARC members to get involved as appropriate, or think about becoming involved in next year's planning. Events such as these really help portray to the public what the amateur radio community can do, and, they're just a lot fun to participate in as well!

73

Marshall  
KI4MWP

## **Social Events**

Pre-meeting dinner is now at Atlantis in the Bradlee Shopping Center at 5:30 PM. This is also a chance to meet our guest speaker as we offer to buy dinner for them prior to the meeting.

Monday Night Half Price Burgers – There is a group that gets together at Shooter McGee's (Duke and Paxton Streets) on Monday evenings at 6:15 PM. A good burger and soft drink runs about \$9.00.

Talk is cheap, so sometimes we talk about non-radio items. After the Columbus Day MCM test some of us who had worked the digital tests talked about putting a group visit to the NRA Museum and the Udvar Hazy part of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. If your interested in joining in these events. Let N4ASX/Rick know what weekends are good for you and which museums your interested in visiting.