

ARC-SHORTS

June 2020

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.
: DMR IS UP AND RUNNING 442.4125 +5Mhz Color Code 1.

PLEASE USE OUR REPEATERS.

Presidents Input

On May 28th, we were very delighted to learn about the new ARRL temporary waiver for Field Day 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the waiver, we were very concerned that ARC could not function as a “club” during Field Day 2020 because of COVID-19 state and local public gathering restrictions and closed public facilities. ARC had sought an ARRL waiver of the 1000 feet diameter rule, but that was not granted. The 1000 feet rule requires all Field Day radio equipment to be within a circle with a diameter of 1000 feet. Never-the-less, the new temporary waiver made it possible for ARC to operate as a “club” during Field Day, with some differences from the past. The waiver has two important provisions: 1.) allowing QSO points for class “D” to class “D” station contacts and 2.) summing of individual scores into an aggregate “club” score. Field Day rules defines a class “D” station as a home station on commercial power.

ARC Field Day 2020 Planning Group meetings were held via Zoom on May 20th and on June 10th. A final plan of action for Field Day 2020 was under discussion during the June 10th meeting. On June 10 we learned that Northern Virginia will be entering phase II of reopening which allows gathering of up to 50 people while practicing social distancing; however, it is still unclear when public potty facilities will become available. Availability of nearby potty facilities became a top concern during planning of Field Day 2020. As of June 10th, 14 club members have

volunteered to operate Field Day stations. The Field Day 2020 final plan will be presented to club membership on June 12th.

Roy Wright, K4AXQ, has been appointed as club PIO. In this capacity Roy will be the point of contact for public information related to ARC. He will interface with other amateur radio PIOs and others for ARC.

We have confirmation that our July meeting will feature an AMSAT presentation via Zoom by Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, Executive Vice President of AMSAT. Founded in 1969, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corp. (AMSAT) is an all-volunteer organization that has been devoted to “keeping amateur radio in space” over the past 50 years. Details on AMSAT Field Day 2020 rules may be found at: <https://www.amsat.org/field-day/>.

Scheduled Activities and Presentations for 2020 updated as of May 30, 2020

- January 10th – MEETING, 2020 Plans & Programs, Membership Dues
- February 1st – FROSTFEST, Richmond, VA
- February 14th – MEETING, VA QSO Party, Gordon Miller (NQ4K)
- February 17th – George Washington Day Parade Participation
- March 10th – License Classes begin (Ends May 5)
- March 7th – St Patrick’s Day Parade
- March 13th – (CANCELLED) MEETING, AREDN, Joe Porcelli (KT3I)
- March 21-22nd – VA QSO Party Weekend
- March 29th (CANCELLED) WINTERFEST, Annandale, VA
- April 8th – (POSTPONED INDEFINITELY) FIELD DAY 2020 planning committee kickoff (John Marshall Library)
- April 10th – ZOOM MEETING, Alexandria CERT, Dr. Marjorie Windelberg
- May 8th – ZOOM MEETING, WINLINK, Greg Butler (KW6GB)
- May 15-17th – (CANCELLED) HAMVENTION, Dayton, OH
- June 12th – (ZOOM MEETING, FIELD DAY 2020 final briefing
- June 27-28th – FIELD DAY (NON-PUBLIC) 2020 Weekend
- July 10th – (TBA MEETING, AMSAT, Paul Stroetzer (N8HM)
- August 14th – (TBD MEETING, Marine Corps Marathon Briefing
- September 11th – MEETING, TBA
- October 9th -- MEETING, Ham Radio Outlet, Steve Gilmore (W4SHG)
- October 25th – MARINE CORPS MARATHON

- November 13th – Meeting, Year in Review, Elections
- December 11th – Meeting, Christmas party

Please stay safe and keep up with your social distancing.

73 Don, KI4D

Last Meeting

Meeting Notes May 8, 2020

Greg Butler KW6GB provided our club an introduction to WINLINK and the benefits to the ham radio community. “Winlink is a worldwide radio email service that uses radio pathways where the internet is not present and is capable of operating completely without the internet--automatically--using smart-network radio relays.

Winlink provides its users email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, and is well-known for its role in interoperable emergency and disaster relief communications.”

Committee Reports:

N4ASX provided us an update on ARES/RACES

KW4UJ provided us an update on the ARC membership our numbers are up. He reminds those that have not paid the 2020 annual membership dues are requested to please do so. Your options are thru the web site using PayPal or send him a check directly. Please contact him if you wish to pay by check and he will provide you an address to send it to. Your dues are due annually depending on the month that you joined. Don KI4D provided an update on the history of ARC trailer. He continues to encourage us all that we should document the history of ARC before we become a silent key.

KA4GFY provided an update Repeaters status as well as recommendations for possible replacements

N8IK provided an update on AREDN

KA4GEY provided an update on Training/Education, how well the current class be tested?

KA4GFY provided an update on the work that’s needs to be done to the trailer roof

refurbishment K4AXQ/N8IK provided an update on the continues updates provided to the

W4HFH web site June 12th – (TBD) MEETING, FIELD DAY 2020 final brief you go back a

few issues you will find an article on Packet and WINLINK. If you have an ARPS radio, you have packet radio and be extension WINLINK capability.

No business issues were voted on. We await a real meeting to do that.

FIELD DAY

First, Thanks to our President and Field Day Chair, who worked with a bunch of higher ups in the ARRL. He got them to listen to the issues with COVID-19 and lack of public facilities and after he spent many hours seeking out ARRL directors and talking to the ARRL president on the phone he got them to change the rules. There may have been others who also asked for rule changes, but Don put in a great effort and timing says the Victory was his and by extension the clubs and all those who could not otherwise participate.

Please, when you see Don, thank him for his efforts. In my past 42 years with this club, I have seen a great deal of Presidents come and go. Many just run the meeting. Some ask others to take on the work, but Don has been one of the few that are active and provide leadership.

Field Day is NOT A CONTEST. It is an exercise. SO, why then do we count points and submit scores? Think of it as the measure of how effective your emergency HF operations are. This is a great event to see how well your station runs and where you can make contacts. Imagine you have just been a Katrina like event. Commercial power is out, but somehow you still have your station (only for this year) and you need to get traffic out of the area. How well could you do that?

This year we get to operate as CLASS D, so you can talk to anyone in the exercise and make points. Don't forget to send in your Cabrillo report to ARRL and there is a line in the report for your CLUB. ALEXANDRIA RADIO CLUB. Do it as long as you can from 1 hour to 24 hours.

73 Rick
N4ASX

Below is from our Field Day Chair and President Don, KI4D

On May 27, 2020 the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Programs and Services Committee (PSC) adopted two temporary rule waivers for Field Day 2020. These waivers provide for:

- 1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.
- 2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

The main impact of these rule changes allow ARRL clubs to compete for "club credit" in Field Day 2020; whereas under previous rules, clubs could not compete as a club because of COVID-19 state and local

gathering restrictions along with ARRL Field Day 2020 rules requiring club events to be public events conducted within a 1000 feet diameter space.

The Alexandria Radio Club ARC is taking advantage of the ARRL temporary waivers by approaching Field Day 2020 differently from prior years. In doing so, there are significant differences this year for individual field day station operators. Individual Field Day station operators must have their own equipment and space to operate or have assistance with that in some form. It is possible for equipment loans from the club, or individual club members for those who have equipment gaps. For those who cannot erect antennas at their residence, it is possible to operate “portable” in a public space (a park) or in a private space (a church parking lot or other available location). It is also possible to operate “mobile.” The second major impact is that all Field Day station operators must become directly knowledgeable of Field Day rules. In past years, Only Band Captains and Rich Adamy, the Club call custodian for W4HFH, had to be 100% knowledgeable of Field Day rules. The third major impact is that all Field Day station operators must file a summary of their own Field Day 2020 participation with the ARRL. Normally, the club would file the Field Day report.

The following approach to Field Day 2020 has been reviewed and approved by Alexandria Radio Club leadership (Club officers and Board), subject to changes and greater detail:

- There will be no public event in 2020; all ARC Field Day participants are encouraged to operate portable, mobile or from their home station, with “Safety First.” Please stay safe.
- There will be no Band Captains.
- Recommended Field Day Classes of Operation are: B (portable), C (mobile), or D (home or home. of record). See attached rules, pages 3-8, for full explanations.
- ARC Field Day participants are encouraged to earn individual Bonus Points. See attached rules, pages 3-8, for full explanations.
- **Participants are requested to notify the ARC Field Day Chairman of their intentions to participate in Field Day. If there is a desire to participate and there are gaps in equipment, etc., the club may be able to help out.**
- The ARC Field Day Charmain will act as a facilitator for mutual support, assistance, and coordination.
- ARC will sponsor training/orientation for the N1MM logging program.
- ARC requests participants to submit their Field Day results to ARRL and to the Field Day Chairman for consolidation of “Club” contacts and scoring.
- A Field Day planning and coordination Zoom meeting will be conducted for participants on June 10th. All participants should attend for the latest information and to provide input for final plans.
- Completed plans for ARC Field Day 2020 will be presented at the club monthly meeting on June 12th
- A Field Day 2020 final check and coordination meeting VIA Zoom is scheduled on June 24th

As a member of the Field Day Planning Google Group, please send me an email letting me know that you plan to operate a station for “club credit” during Field Day 2020; this is important so that coordination and mutual support can be established.

Finally, please send any suggestions, comments, or questions that you may have to the Google Group or me. Working through the challenges of a COVID-19 Field Day will require a team effort. Thanks for your Cooperation.

Don Lewis
Field Day 2020 Coordinator

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Our next meeting will be on June 12th at 7PM and will be a ZOOM meeting due to COVID 19 restrictions. The program will be a planning session for Field Day. Field Day is a MAJOR event for us, and Don has been working hard to make this happen with all our new restrictions.

We have a big club and our focus should be on amateur radio. Don't sit this one out!

ARES

On May 30th there was a NATION WIDE ARES / American Red Cross Simulated Emergency Test (SET). I asked for participation from Alexandria ARES and had a few who took the time.

The following stations supported the Alexandria ARES effort for this drill

N4ASX – Rick – NCS and Part B (WINLINK) submissions for the net.
KA4GFY – Rich Adamy – Shelter 2
KI4D – Don Lewis – Alexandria Hospital Liaison
K5OTZ – Jack Hranicky – Alexandria EOC liaison
KM4DC – Don McCubbin – Red Cross Head Quarters Liaison
KN4YZY – Corey Law -Shelter 1
N4CWP – Harry Jones – Shelter 3
NG2E – John Haefner – Fairfax liaison via 146.91 repeater (Winlink) submissions part B
KG4HZC - Dr Mac – Fairfax Shelter 2 – Winlink submissions part B

Per the plan, we started the net at 0900 local time and called for check-ins. In addition to the Alexandria ARES group we had two stations from Arlington and Fairfax. Apparently, Fairfax and Arlington ARES did not participate.

Each station was asked to take 30 minutes to simulate deployment to locations and setup and return with their first status report. NCS requested each station was to provide 1 – Are you operational, Do you have emergency power, red cross staff, shelter capacity, number of patients, status supplies (food, water, first aid, etc.) For the hospital I asked for capacity and status of the hospital to support victims.

About 11AM local, we closed down operations having set up the net and passed traffic via 213 form - I could not figure out how to use the Red Cross 6409 form, which is a requisition form. SO, all 8 pieces of traffic were sent via WINLINK to Greg KW6GB via his tactical call sign.

Part B traffic was sent via WINLINK about 2PM. I was not able to go through K7BC-10 so went through N2LEE.

KM4DC did accept status reports for net control from NG2E which were forwarded to Greg.

It would be helpful if the Red Cross had a standard SHELTER STATUS report form.

I had hoped that I would have up to 14 Alexandria ARES operators, but many did not participate, which I will work on.

AFTER ACTION FOR May 30, 2020 SET

John Roberts, the State Emergency Coordinator held an After Action ZOOM meeting on Wednesday June 10th.

Overall, he was happy with the performance of ARES. He pointed out that we are still to improve upon; Discussions on participation, better liaison with the Red Cross, More training in WINLINK, RED CROSS forms, and net procedures. One suggestion was to continue to push for Red Cross volunteers to become amateur radio operators. Rick, N4ASX, pointed out that asking CERT, Red Cross, or other volunteers to become amateur radio operators is not a good idea. They generally, do not continue to use their equipment, or to continue to train in the art and science of radio and when there is a real emergency, they are not able to be of practical use.

Discussion on the need for grant writing to provide equipment that can be used by all ARES members (some ARES members may not want to allow others to use their equipment). There was also the suggestion that served agencies should install antennas, and other amateur radio equipment in Red Cross shelters and other emergency support locations. We in Alexandria are in good shape on this as the Nanny J. Lee Center serves as an alternate Emergency Operations Center and has emergency power, The Hospital has an antenna up for us and our digital repeaters and also has emergency power. We have the trailer and it has two 2KW generator sets and many of our members have go kits that have anything an assignment would need.

We can expect more drills in the coming year as the state tries to get us all up to speed and work together both digitally and locally.

Thanks again to all who participated.

73 Rick
N4ASX

New requirements for ARES volunteers. First, to find out what's going on in the state FACEBOOK is the place to get info (so I'm told), All ARES volunteers will be expected to sign up with ARRL ARES CONNECT VA. I understand that I will be able to keep records and post nets and events for our group on this site. Please sign up <https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/>

When we get access to the hospital again, we will replace the DSL router for D-STAR and DMR repeaters. Hope to also figure out how to remote the two Dual Band radios from the machinery room to the office where the hospital wants us to set up our equipment.

Trailer work is now in the planning stages and CORVID-19 willing, we can get the trailer updated before Field Day.

73 Rick

N4ASX

It is with great sadness

Yesterday, Craig Church became a silent key succumbing to COVID-19 at Arlington Hospital. He had gone to the hospital a few weeks ago and was sent home. His condition got worse and he was readmitted and passed yesterday.

Craig, K4GOR, is best know to the club for working with Tim KT4MV on refurbishing and upgrading all our many repeaters. Craig also built the Arlington Amateur Radio Club's 145.47 repeater and its multi-receiver voting system mostly from scratch.

I met Craig in 1984 on the air when I moved from Alexandria to Arlington and enjoyed a lot of hours talking with Craig and many others on the 145.47 repeater. Craig was active in ARES during that period as well as in the Arlington club. Many things were accomplished because Craig made it happen.

Craig worked for the U.S. Patent Office and retired as a GS-15 not only as a manager but also as one who took it on as a special challenge to train younger patent examiners.

Craig will be missed, and it is a great loss to the club and amateur radio.

Craig is survived by his son David and daughter, his daughter's family and his ex-wife.

We are too soon gone from this world and Craig will be remembered for his contributions to both the Alexandria Radio Club and to the Arlington Amateur Radio Club.

We will hold a moment of silence for Criag on our net Thursday.

73 Rick

N4ASX

Hamfests –

- If you have never attended Hamvention, use “2020” as the year.
- May 30 and 31 – CQ Worldwide WPX Contest, CW. Exchange is RST and serial number.
- June 6 and 7 – Kentucky QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

The spread of COVID-19 (AKA Corona Virus) has put a major damper on hamfests.

So far in our area, Winterfest, Fredfest and Hagerstown Hamfests have been cancelled. The Raleigh and Durham, NC hamfests have been cancelled. The Delmarva hamfest has been cancelled. The Memorial weekend hamfest was cancelled. Added to that list is Olde VA Hams hamfest and the Father’s Day hamfest at Arcadia in June. The big disappointment to everyone is the cancellation of Hamvention 2020. The first time in their 68-year history.

The Shenandoah Valley ARC is optimistic their hamfest in early August will still be held. It’s at the Clark County Ruritan’s fairgrounds in Berryville. Here is the link:

<https://svarc.us/hamfest/>

With the ongoing COVID-19 situation, be sure to check the websites to make sure the hamfest has not been cancelled.

Training –

Our class began on schedule March 10 with 18 students in attendance. There were four who indicated they were interested in coming, but other commitments got in the way.

By the second week, we were unable to hold class in the Police Department facility. Zoom has been our teaching platform for the duration of the class. Without access to the Police Department building, we are now teaching General class material to our students to get them up to speed to take the General class exam along with the technician when we do get access.

We have reserved the room in June after the restriction is lifted. If for some reason we still can’t into the building, we have a couple of contingency plans in place to make sure the exam goes on. We won’t know for sure until early to mid-June where and when the exam will be. Most likely, we will have to do exams in small groups to comply with social distancing and group size guidelines. If you are interested in taking an exam, be sure to check with me before the exam. We will not be able to accommodate walk-ins. I’ll post something on the reflector once we have the final details.

Contests –

- June 6 and 7 – Kentucky QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

- June 13 through 15 – ARRL June VHF Contest. 50 MHz and above. Exchange is grid square. Most of us are in FM18.
- June 20 and 21 – West Virginia QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- June 27 and 28 – ARRL Field Day. Exchange is your class and ARRL section.

While its not a contest, don't forget Kid's Day on June 20. It's an opportunity to introduce kids to the world of amateur radio.

Don't forget, be sure to send in your log within 7 days after the contest ends for all ARRL sponsored contests. ARRL now uses a web application for contest log submissions. Here is the link: <http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org/> Be sure to convert your file to Cabrillo format before submitting. Most logging programs support the Cabrillo format.

REMEMBER to support the CLUB'S score for contests by providing Ian, N8IK your info (Name, Call sign and Grid Square location) and submit your scores for the contests you play in. If the contest asks for a club affiliation, the Alexandria Radio Club is on the list of contest clubs. Contesting is one way we show that we are using our frequency allocations.

Contests may not be your thing, but contests are a great way to show outside interests we do use our valuable spectrum. By showing we use our spectrum, other services will have a hard time proving that we don't use our spectrum and it's up for re-allocation to someone else.

Contests can also be a great way to become introduced to HF communications. While it can be intense, pick the contest and jump in. Most contests have a limited exchange so it is usually easy to get what the other station needs.

State QSO parties are a great introduction to contesting. Most are low-key and the exchange is limited.

Speaking of state QSO parties, there is now a state QSO party challenge. You can start accumulating multipliers by submitting a log in any state or provincial QSO party to 3830scores.com [QSOParty.Groups.io.forum](http://QSOParty.Groups.io/forum) and [State QSOParty.com](http://StateQSOParty.com).

Repeaters –

The club analog repeaters are all up and running. The receiver on the 70 cm DSTAR repeater appears to have a sensitivity issue. The transmitter is working normally.

We have resumed (semi-regularly) the follow-on net on one of the other repeaters after the Thursday net on the 2-meter analog repeater.

Once the access restriction is lifted at the hospital, we will be able to replace the modem and look at the 70 cm repeater receiver to see what needs to be done. Once the modem is replaced, our DSTAR and DMR repeaters will have internet access.

You can use the DSTAR repeaters in local mode by not filling in the "Repeater 2" position or link to another W4HFH DSTAR repeater by using "W4HFH" in the first 5 positions and "A", "B", or "C" in the 8th position in "Repeater 2."

The local mode for the DMR repeater is talk group 27500. Most code plugs label the talk group as "Local."

As always, ham it up and get on the air.

73, Rich, KA4GFY