



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
January 2023

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Member News

Welcome New Members

Anthony Arakelian (KQ4EYX) Interested in Mobile, 2M, APRS, & ARES
Sandra Cruz-Pol (KQ4BDG) Interested in 2m Nets as well as AREDN, FT8, DSTAR
Christina Talley (no call sign yet) Interested in EMCOM

Congratulations to New Licensees from our Class

Anthony Arakelian (KQ4EYX) - Technician
Luciano Boglino (KB1TZN) - Extra
Jeffery Cook (KQ4CMA) - General
Timothy Gifford (KO4VFP) - General
Amy Hotz (KQ4EYY) - Technician
Alexander Iamatino (KQ4EYM) - Technician
Brian Jones (KQ4AEQ) - General
Sandy Kenyon (KQ4DNE) - Extra
Eric Parker (KG4DZA) - Extra
Daniel Simons (KC3OPK) - General

Milestones and Tips

Rich KA4GFY now has **100 Winlink Wednesday check-ins**. Congratulations, Rich.

Ian N8IK logged over **8,700 QSOs in 2022, mostly with FT8**. “While 8700 sounds like a lot, it's really not” he says, “that’s an average of 24 a day and on FT8 you can do that easily in less than 2 hours. FT8 is a game-changer — it is so sensitive that I can decode stations on 15/12/10m with nothing but a PL-259 at the end of the coax! Give it a try!” Congratulations.

Jan KB2LRX has completed the **ARRL PR-101 course** and received a certificate.

Don KI4D has been testing out the [G7FEK multiband antenna](#).

Ian N8IK has sent word of new [AREDN firmware](#).

President’s Corner – Don KI4D

Happy New Year and a prosperous new year to everyone.

As I think about this coming year, I want to continue building consensus on how the club should move forward in 2023. I want my priorities to reflect your most important priorities for club development, operations and activities. Therefore, please give some thought to what you expect from your club and I want to know about your ideas on how we should proceed in the new year.

At the upcoming January meeting I look forward to providing an overview of my perspectives for the coming year; the membership chairman, Joe Izaguirre, KO4QQX, and the PIO chairman, Jan, KB2LRX, will also share their perspectives for their plans for the coming year.

We will provide a briefing on **Winter Field Day 2023** planning for ARC. Winter Field Day is a communications exercise held in the middle of winter environments during the last weekend in January. This will be the first year for our participation. For more information visit <http://www.winterfieldday.org>.

Next Meeting

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, January 13, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

The meeting will feature a presentation by **Orv Beach** W6BI on AREDN. Orv is an “AREDN Ambassador” designated by the AREDN team in a new program to recognize people who are actively contributing to spreading the word about how hams can use our 21st century mesh networking technology to provide high-speed data communications when disasters strike.

AREDN Ambassadors

- * Perform a significant amount of testing to help us verify new features and bug fixes and uncover new flaws.
- * Improve feature sets.

- * Identify new equipment which extends our supported platforms.
- * Donate their time and effort to building and operating mesh networks.
- * Promote the AREDNR Project through presentations to clubs and hamfests.
- * Engage local government, hospitals and other served agencies in discussions about how hams can provide 21st century solutions to emergency communications needs.
- * Constantly improve their networking skills.
- * Commit to support and advise local hams about methods to build successful networks.
- * Develop new applications and uses for an AREDNR mesh network

REMINDER – JANUARY IS DUES MONTH

Membership dues are \$25.00 per year. 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.

Save the Date(s)

January 28 & 29 – Winter Field Day

Details will be presented at our next meeting.

Last Meeting

We held our Holiday Party at Glory Days on December 9th. A great get-together, as always. Here are the members honored at the party. Citations courtesy of Rick Bunn, N4ASX.

Mr. Everywhere – Ian Keith, N8IK. Ian is EVERYWHERE doing great things for the club. He is one of our most outstanding Elmers. He is an instructor for our Tech and General Classes and an active member of our VE team. In addition, he is our D-Star Net lead and has kept our D-Star nets going and improving and he is at the forefront of the FT8 revolution.

D-STAR Extraordinary Member Award (2nd Award) – Ian Keith, N8IK. MOST new nets using other than 2 meters tend to go for a few months and die by lack of attention. Ian has kept the Wednesday D-Star Net running and GAINING interest. To include the use of REF 062B to encourage check-ins from out of the area.

CONTEST MASTER and LEADER (2nd Award) – Richard C. Adamy, KA4GFY. Rich not only provides a list of contests and activities in EACH ARC SHORTS but leads in participation and follow up. He actively encourages new club members to GET INTO THE GAME.

Mr. Satellite – Joe Porcelli, KT3I. At our 2022 FIELD DAY, Joe brought out a Satellite station that would have made NASA blush. He worked 5 plus satellites in rapid succession in the middle of the night! VERY WELL DONE!

Winlink Leadership Award – Don Lewis, KI4D. Don, is a leader and leader by example. He has been a regular with Winlink Wednesday and still leads with his move from Packet (simplest way via VHF) to VARA HF. By his example we all become better able to use this tool.

MOST OUTSTANDING NET CONTROL STATION –Bryan Pettigrew, WD4ADF. Most NCS are rather dry and just take care of business. Our 2-meter nets are both social and for club/ARES interests. Bryan has brought to our nets “EXCITEMENT” and for that we have more participation.

Field Day Support Award – Jeff Johnson, KQ4AGS. Jeff was a VERY New amateur but came out to our Field Day and was everywhere and helped with ALL of the stations during set-up and solved a great deal of set-up problems and contributed to one of our most successful Field Days.

Field Day Late Nighters – Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK; Ryan Stinebiser, KOEBY; Joe Porcelli, KT3I. These three members had the stamina and energy to stay up in the overnight time frame. Their presence also protected our equipment.

The Friendly Face of Field Day and Meetings – Carol Myers, KN4LLL. Carol led our Field Day Info table, welcoming those who came to visit and being the face of our club on our most public event. Carol has also been one of the best Secretaries we have ever had and a great representative of the club.

Innovation Award – Ed Ferguson, W4EDF. Ed, like others, works away from his home quite a bit and has used a great deal of new ideas to make his operation work including solar power.

Innovation Award – Ed Colonna, K4ESC. Ed, like others, works away from his home quite a bit and has used a great deal of new ideas to make his operation work, including solar power.

Chief Chef in The Age of COVID Award – William Wilson, KM4CLK. Wilson not only prepared an incredible menu, but he did it with measures that kept members from sharing COVID with their teammates. He did this with such skill that we hardly see the amount of work put into this effort.

ARES – Rick N4ASX

Happy New Year. We can expect a great deal of things that affect ARES in the coming year.

1. The **state organization** will continue to reorganize and new leadership at the state level will set new training and reporting requirements. This is a GOOD thing. For the last 15 plus years, the state organization has been a mess, with management being left to the local Emergency Coordinators (ECs). Expect that the new Section Manger (SM) and Section Emergency Manager (SEM) will do their best to correct this. They have been working with FEMA and the State Emergency Management Office to improve our readiness and our relationship with the state.
2. Locally, we can look forward to closer relationships with **Alexandria City Emergency Management**. We were not called for the Alexandria First Night, but we may be next year. We will be active both as the Alexandria Radio Club and Alexandria ARES for the **George Washington Birthday Parade**. The outline for this event is included below. We need about 9 operators for the parade, but more is better.
3. New this year will be our participation in **Winter Field Day**, January 28 and 29. Be sure to attend our January 13 meeting to hear about this important training exercise.

ARES Training. I ask that all volunteers complete Level 1 of the TASK BOOK this year. In the future, volunteers will be asked to complete Level 1 training in the first year. If you do not have a copy of the Task Book, let me know. You do not need to send me the task book but send me any completed items and if it is a FEMA class, send me a copy of the certificate. I encourage all to work on Level II as well. I expect that the city will be performing background checks for all who complete Level I.

Regarding equipment to support emergencies, this is the time to make sure you have your gear ready to go. For handheld radios, check your rechargeable batteries, I do recommend that you have a way to run your handheld radios from an external power source. Many of the newer radios will run from an AA or AAA battery pack or from an external 12VDC source. While a 2 meter only HT is good for 90% of all ARES operations, a dual band radio (2 meter / 70cm) radio allows for more flexibility. If you have a mobile make sure the power, antenna and programming are good to go. If you have a GO KIT, do not forget to make sure all is up to date programming wise and exercise it at least every six months. Last item, make sure you are prepared for the weather.

As always, we are looking for more ARES volunteers. All you need to do to volunteer can support emergency communications and fill out an FSD-98 to let me know what your capabilities are. For those who support Alexandria CERT, there is no conflict. In an emergency, communications between CERT and ARES may be critical. Those volunteers who have membership in both groups would be our best way to provide needed communications.

Finally, we may get HF capability at the EOC and if so, we will exercise the EOC more often and try to arrange for training on the equipment installed. The relocation of the Alexandria

Hospital and the construction of the new Fairfax hospital will require the setup of stations in these facilities to support emergency operations. I am working with the emergency manager at Alexandria Hospital to facilitate the move.

George Washington Birthday Parade February 20, 2023 (Monday - President's Day)

ASSEMBLY – Alexandria Fire Training Center (Nanny J. Lee School) at 9AM. At that time, we will hand out the details of the parade, and assignments.

FUNCTIONS – Our functions have not changed.

- 1 - We will set up AREDN from the Parade Start to the Reviewing stand to send changes to the order of march.
- 2 - Work with the Civil Air Patrol to collect any changes to the parade and relay those changes to the club's comm trailer at the beginning of the parade.
- 3 - Provide eyes and ears on the parade route to promote safety
- 4 - Support communications between the parade coordinator and her staff
- 5 - If possible, we will have an ARPS handheld at the beginning and end of the parade and an APRS station at the reviewing stand to provide situational awareness to the parade management.

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 AM - Assemble at the Fire Training Center.
- 10:30 AM - Trailer towed to the parade start, ARES/ ARC volunteers carpool to the parade and need to be on the parade course by 11 AM.
- 12:00 PM - Parade form up.
- 12:50 PM - All changes need to be sent to the Trailer either via radio or a legible list so the changes can be sent via AREDN.
- 1:00 PM - Parade starts.
- 2:30 PM - Parade should be over.
- 3:00 PM - Get together to share any issues for the next parade.

FREQUENCY PLAN

All working with the parade marshals will use 146.655 repeater (141.3 CTCSS) or 147.315 SIMPLEX when possible. (Arrangements will be made with the Mt. Vernon ARC)

Trailer / Reviewing stand will use 444.6 (107.2) to not interfere with the parade organizing efforts.

POST-PARADE HOT WASH

After the parade is over, we will make our way to Glory Days for warmth and a late lunch cost covered by the club.

Activities and Events - Rich KA4GFY

Training – Our next class is scheduled for March to May 2023.

Hamfests – The Vienna Wireless Society's Winterfest takes place on March 19, 2023 at Oakton High School from 8 AM to 2 PM. Note the new venue for this year. Here is the link to the hamfest: <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest/>. **Harry Jones** N4CWP has reserved three tables for us.

Contests –

- January 14 and 15 – North American QSO Party, CW. Exchange is name and state.
- January 21 and 22 – North American QSO Party, SSB. Exchange is name and state.
- January 21 through 23 – ARRL January VHF Contest. Exchange is 4-character grid square. Most of us are in FM18.
- February 4 and 5 – Vermont QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- February 4 – Minnesota QSO Party. Exchange is name and state.
- February 4 and 5 – British Columbia QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- February 5 – North American Sprint, CW. Exchange is other station's call, your call, serial number, name and state.
- February 11 and 12 – CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest. Exchange is RST and serial number.
- February 18 and 19 – ARRL International DX Contest, CW. Exchange is RST and state.

Every Sunday evening at 8 PM local time, the K1USN Radio Club sponsors the "Slow Speed Contest." The exchange is similar to a QSO. See the rules here: <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html>.

Every Tuesday at 0000 (7 PM EST Monday for us) is the Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest. Exchange is RS and age group (OM, YL, Youth YL, or Youth). Here are the rules: <https://wwsac.com/rules.html>

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.

Repeaters - Rich KA4GFY

PLEASE USE OUR REPEATERS

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.

Several members have mentioned that the 2-meter repeater has been sounding slightly different. It is different. Early in December, the Motorola MSF-5000 that has served us well for close to 20 years was pulled from service and a Motorola Quantar was installed in its place. The Quantar is a dual-mode repeater. So, if you have any P-25 capable equipment, give it a try.

The old antenna that had been in place at least 20 years has also been replaced. The top sections of that antenna were nearly broken off, resulting in an antenna with no gain and high SWR. An abandoned antenna on the roof showed a good match on 147 MHz, was re-purposed and the feedline connected to our repeater. Users should notice a vastly improved signal on the 147.315 repeater. I am interested in signal reports from around the area.

Many thanks to life members Mike Washvill (no call) and K2KT, along with KW4UJ and KV3W for making this happen.

The DSTAR repeaters continue to see a lot of activity. We have been linking the 2-meter repeater to Reflector 062C for Virginia and Maryland communications, the 70cm repeater to Reflector 030C for long-range communications and the 23cm voice repeater to Reflector 025B, the Northern Virginia local reflector or 001C, the world-wide reflector. If you want to link to another reflector, be sure to unlink the repeater first and then link to the reflector of your choice. All we ask is you unlink the reflector you were listening on when you are finished.

DMRVA has announced two new repeaters have been added to their network. The first one is located in New Kent, along I-64 between Richmond and Williamsburg. The frequency is 442.0500. The second one is near Charlottesville on Elliot's Knob. The frequency is 443.1500. Both use the standard DMRVA talkgroup lineup and Color Code 1 for access.

The Alexandria Radio Club has one of the only 23 cm analog repeaters in the area. Give it a try on your IC-9700, G-7, ID-1, or if you still have one, a T-81. It works quite well.

We also have one of the few 33 cm repeaters in the area. It has good coverage and can be accessed with a handheld in many of the same places as our 70 cm repeater. If you have an Alinco G-29, Motorola GTX or a Kenwood TK-981, give it a try. If you are curious about 33 cm, check out kw902.com. This is the go-to website on everything about Kenwood 33 cm equipment. Another good source of 33 cm information is the San Diego 900 MHz Club at SD900MHz.com.

We have resumed the follow-on net on one of the other repeaters after the Thursday net on the 2-meter analog repeater on a rotating basis, 6 meter, 1.25 meter, and 70 cm repeaters. There has been discussion about trying the 33 cm and 23 cm repeaters as well. There isn't too much 33 cm equipment in the club, but several members have the ICOM 9700, so a 23 cm net is not too far-fetched.

Ian, N8IK, runs the Wednesday night DSTAR net on the 145.380 MHz repeater at 8 PM. The Wednesday night net is starting to pick up some momentum. We link the repeater to Reflector 62B at net time so members and former members outside the local area can join in. Some time ago, I asked the folks who maintain the lists of DSTAR reflectors to create a Virginia perma-link reflector. Many other states have them. Be sure to put Reflector 62B in your DSTAR programming.

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

73, Rich, KA4GFY

Alexandria Radio Club mailing list

Home: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/alexandriaradioclub>

Help: <http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm>

Post: <mailto:AlexandriaRadioClub@mailman.qth.net>

This list hosted by: <http://www.qsl.net>

Please help support this email list: <http://www.qsl.net/donate.html>

An "Alexandria Radio Club Current Membership" Google Group has been established for internal club discussions by "active" club members. This is a private group established to promote internal club member communications among members of Alexandria Radio Club who are current with their club dues, and are therefore entitled to full membership privileges and benefits.

Invitations to join this list have been sent to "active" members, based on those current with 2022 club dues as reflected with the Club Treasurer. If you have paid club dues for 2022 and have not received an invitation to the Google Group, please send a note to Don Lewis KI4D so that the situation can be corrected soonest. A few email addresses have bounced.

Club Leadership

Elected Officers for 2023*

Don Lewis, KI4D—President
Sean Gallagher, K4KBK—Vice President
Carol Myers, KN4LLL—Secretary
Erik Misavage, KI4BXU—Treasurer

Elected Board of Directors, At Large*

Ian Keith, N8IK
Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK
Jason Palmer, WA6MPR

* Voting members of the leadership group are the elected officers and elected directors.

Committee Chairmen

Joe Izaguirre, KO4QQX—Membership
Jan Maas, KB2LRX—Public Information
Officer (PIO)
Gary Sessums, KC5QCN—Club Metro
Area Liaison

Rich Adamy, KA4GFY (Lifetime
Member)
Rick Bunn, N4ASX (Lifetime Member)
Jim Stone, W4YUE
Marshall DeBerry, KI4MWP (Lifetime
Member)
Tom Kirby, KJ4FUU
Larry Walker, K4LDW
Monica Wilson, KC2IAY
Richard Morani, KW4UJ
Ted Einersen, W9TCE

Advisory Group of Past Presidents & Officers

Harry Jones, N4CWP (Lifetime Member)

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

<mailto:president@[w4hfh.org](mailto:president@w4hfh.org)> president@[w4hfh.org](mailto:president@w4hfh.org)
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<mailto:treasurer@[w4hfh.org](mailto:treasurer@w4hfh.org)> treasurer@[w4hfh.org](mailto:treasurer@w4hfh.org)
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