



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
July 2023

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Field Day 2023. See President's Corner for ARC Field Day news.

Member News

Welcome New Members

Tim Bounds (KQ4JMF), Edward E. Ferguson, Sr. (W3EDF), Nick Friederich (W0CJN), Marshall Lammers, and Tom Longman (NH7XJ).

Congratulations New Extra

Alex Lammers (KO4ZMC) passed his Amateur Extra exam on June 20, just in time for Field Day. Alex is the youngest Extra the club has seen for some time, if ever, according to long-time members.

CORRECTION: Last month's ARC-SHORTS published the wrong call sign for **Gary Sessums**. He is **KC5QCN**.

President's Corner

Don (KI4D)

I had a great time at Field Day 2023. This year, the Governor of Virginia issued a Certificate of Recognition that recognized June 24-25, 2023, as AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR RECOGNITION DAYS in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and called the observance to the attention of all citizens. We were honored to have City of Alexandria Fire Chief Corey Smedley, Mr. Kevin Coleman of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and Ms. Marjorie Windelberg of Alexandria CERT attend our event. We are grateful that they could take time out of their busy schedules to join us.



Chief Smedley with Field Day Chair Bob, K04ZIK

Mr. Kevin Coleman gets a SATCOM station brief by Joe, KT3I.

There were many, many things to be thankful for regarding the event. After some rainy weather predications earlier in the week, the weather was absolutely great, a fantastic summer day. This year was the first time we used Chinquapin Park for Field Day, and it turned out to be a good location for Field Day 2023. Special thanks to Sean Gallagher (KB4KBK) for his extra efforts to secure Chinquapin Park for Field Day. Special thanks to Matt Johnson (KQ4AGS) for acquiring porta potties for the event at no charge to club; and for club trailer transport.

There are a number of noteworthy highlights about Field Day 2023. event. Ed Ferguson Jr. (W4EDF) attended the event along with his father, Ed Ferguson, Sr. (W3EDF), from Pennsylvania. With the help of W4EDF, W3EDF was just recently licensed and was able to get the same call sign suffix that his son has. W4EDF has been a long-time member of Alexandria Radio Club and now his father, W3EDF, is also a member.



Ed Ferguson, Jr., W4EDF and Ed Ferguson, Sr., W3EDF

Our most experienced youth member Alex Lammers (KO4ZMC) having just recently earned his Extra Class Ham License, was Band co-Captain for the 80/160-meter bands and operated from the club trailer at Field Day 2023. Alex was also a standout HF operator during Winter Field Day 2023. Co-Captain Sandra Cruz-Pol (KQ4BDG) also an Extra Class Ham, was operating on 80/160 meters from the trailer with Alex.



Co-Captain Alex Operating on 80 meters



Rick (N4ASX), Alex and Sandra on 80 meters.

Many thanks to Wilson (KM4KLL), Carol (KN4LLL), Sean (K4KBK) and Susan Gallagher, and Karen Bunn for excellent food service support at Field Day 2023.

W4HFH Field Day 2023 24-hour operation would not have been possible without the resilience of the night security team of operators—Ian (N8IK), Sean (K4KBK), Alex (KO4ZMC), Ryan (KO4EBY), Joe, (KT3I), Jay (KV3W), and Bob (KO4ZIK). Kudos to those “Night Security Warriors.”

We had a very good turn-out consisting of 39 club members and over 20 visitors. The complete set of club photos for Field Day 2023 may be viewed at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/PBVsx5angaowbGbi7>.



Alexandria Radio Club Field Day 2023 Club

The Club logged over 1,000 QSOs with the W4HFH call sign. The Club Field Day 2023 Band/Mode breakdown is shown below.



Field Day 2023 Band/Mode QSO Breakdown

Band	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m			33	100	81	100
40m	268	100	1	100	220	100
20m	39	100	200	100	12	100
15m			103	100	36	100
10m			16	100	1	100
6m			27	100	1	100
2m			2	50	2	50
222						
432						
Other						
Satellite					11	100

Thanks to all who contributed to a successful Field Day 2023 event; and a very big thanks to Field Day Chair Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK, for doing an excellent job in leading the successful Field Day 2023 effort.

We would like to welcome new members to Alexandria Radio Club. Welcome aboard to Tim Bounds, KQ4JMF, Nick Friederich, W0CJN, Edward E. Ferguson, Sr., W3EDF, and Thomas Longman, NH7XJ. It was a pleasure to meet and greet them at Field Day 2023. Also welcome to Marshall Lammers.

The July 14th meeting of the Alexandria Radio Club will feature club member Kenneth R. van Wyk, K0RVW, who will give a presentation on Winlink, “Winlink Boot Camp–Getting Started.”

Club meetings now have a timewise standardized format. The objective will be to keep discussions on track so that everything is covered in the time allowed. See figure1. Since time is a premium, it is requested that committee updates be concise so that we can accommodate the entire program in the timeframe allowed.

Meeting Component	Estimated Time Duration (Min)	Time
Opening	5-10	7:00-7:10 p.m.
Featured Presentation w/questions	50	7:10-8:00 p.m.
Club Business	30	8:00- 8:30 p.m.
Ham Work Shop	30+	8:30 p.m. - Until

1 Membership Meeting Format

The Ham workshop will be a continuation with Winlink. Club members are encouraged to bring their computer to the session to send and receive Winlink emails via Telnet.

If you have an idea for a “how-to” presentation or discussion for the monthly club Ham workshop, please send me a note and we will try to work it in.

Don Lewis (KI4D)

Next Meeting

Will be held at 7 pm, Friday, July 14, at the Alexandria Police Department Emergency Operations Center Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue. See **President’s Corner** for details.



At our last meeting, receiving awards for operations during the **Virginia QSO Party** were (l.-r.) Rich, KA4GFY; Ian, N8IK; Bob, KO4ZIK; Todd, KO4IJH; Jay KV3W; Ryan, KO4EBY; Bryan, WD4ADF; and Don KI4D. Several other club members also participated in the QSO Party.

Last Meeting

Minutes – Carol (KN4LLL)

Date: June 9, 2023

Time: 1900 hours

Location: Zoom and In-Person at APD Community Room, Wheeler Lane

Presentation:

- Topic: Field Day Plans
- Presenter: Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK

Reports:

Secretary: Carol KN4LLL

- May 2023 Minutes briefed.

Treasurer: Erik KI4BXV

- Don, KI4D, briefed in Erik's absence.
- Current Balance = \$12,773.56

President: Don KI4D

- D-Day event at Market Square provided an opportunity to share ham radio information with the public.
- FEMA re-signed the MOA with ARRL.
- Presented VA QSO certificates to participants.

Membership: Joe KO4QQX/Bob KO4ZIK

- Welcome new members Bob and Christina.

ARES/RACES: Rick N4ASX

- Rewired the trailer battery kill switch.

Repeaters: Rich KA4GFY

- No issues to report.
- GMRS repeater is up and running; users must have a GMRS license.

AREDN Project: Joe IT3I

- Nothing new to report.

Education/Training: Rich KA4GFY

- Room has been reserved for December exam session.
- Next licensing class will start in October.

Trailer: Sean K4KBK

- HF antenna installed by Matt.

Webmaster/PIO: Richard KW4UJ/Ian N8IK/Jan KB2LRX

- Field Day information disseminated to local media.
- Richard previewed the new website theme and layout.

Net Control: Bryan WD4ADF

- Net control slots to be filled and announced via email.
- May offer a net control training class in July if enough interest.

Old Business

- None

New Business – Rich, KA4GFY/Don KI4D

- Rich, KA4GFY, briefed on D-STAR Repeaters special discount purchase offer presented at Hamvention.
 - This is an opportunity to get 4 ICOM repeaters for the price of 3.
 - ICOM has a new design with built in controller while BridgeCom's are Raspberry Pi-based.
 - Don requested a written proposal be submitted with costs, equipment, etc.
- Don, KI4D briefed upcoming activities
 - July topic has been changed to presentation on WinLink Gateway.

ADJOURNMENT: 2002 hours

Ham Workshop: Todd KO4IJH/Alex KO4ZMC/Ryan KO4EBY/Don KI4D

- Topic: Beyond Line of Sight with NVIS - Building Blocks
 - Projects in progress briefed by Todd, Alex, Ryan, and Don

Attendance (27)

Name	Call Sign
Don	KI4D
Sean	K4K BK
Carol	KN4LLL
Ian	N8IK
Richard	KW4UJ
Rick	N4ASX
Rich	KA4GFY

Ted	W9TCE
Jan	KB2LRX
Gary	KC5QCN
Sandy	KQ4DNE
William	KM4K LK
Bryan	WD4ADF
Jay	KV3W
Ryan	KO4EBY

Luci	KQ4JBJ
Luciano	KB1TZN
Alex	KO4ZMC
Robert	KO4ZIK
Todd	KO4IJH
Peter	N2KFA
Jack	KF7VOU

Harry Jones	N4CWP
Bob Clancy	KQ4ILQ
Ted	N4JOG
James	
Scott	KM4RDR

ARES

Rick (N4ASX)

Most of the time our ARES operations are on VHF and UHF and most of us have 2 meter and 70 cm FM capability. The use of OTHER VHF/UHF bands can in a larger scenario may help as well.

The Alexandria Radio Club has repeaters up on 6 meters, 1.25M, 33 cm, and 23 cm bands. Gear for those bands can be more expensive, but it could be way to handle traffic when the

primary 2 meter and 70cm repeaters are tied up. In California, they use 1.25 m (220Mhz) for packet so that it does not interfere with voice communication.

Other modes can be helpful as well. We support D-Star and it is the PRIMARY way to communicate within the Alexandria Hospital.

So, think about other bands.

Marine Corps Marathon

I encourage all to volunteer for the Marine Corps Marathon (October 29, 2023). They need 150 volunteers. Amateur radio provides safety on the course, Aid Station communications, support to race management and, with APRS, race tracking.

This year there is new leadership and my experience with the Half Marathon suggests that the leadership is much improved. This year you will need to sign up via HAM COMMUNITY. I will send more info on request.

73, **Rick**, N4ASX

Activities and Events

Rich (KA4GFY)

Hamfests –

The Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club's 72nd annual Berryville hamfest takes place on August 6, 2023 at the Clark County Ruritan Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are located at 890 West Main Street in Berryville, VA (it's right off of Route 7). No mention of talk-in, but it's usually on the SVARC's 146.820 (-) MHz repeater (PL 146.2 Hz). Here is the link to the hamfest info: <https://berryvillehamfest.com/>

The Tidewater Hamfest and Swap meet takes place August 12, 2023 at the Ambassador Club of Portsmouth, 364 peninsula Avenue in Portsmouth. Talk-in is on the 146.850 (-) MHz repeater (PL 100.0 Hz). Here is the link: <http://virginiabeachhamfest.com/>

Training –

Our next class is scheduled to begin **October 3** and conclude **December 5, 2023**. If you know someone wishing to become an amateur radio operator, have them contact us at training@w4hfh.org.

Contests –

- July 15 and 16 – North American QSO Party RTTY. Exchange is name and state.
- July 15 and 16 – CQ Worldwide VHF Contest. Exchange is 4-character grid square on the 6 and 2 meter bands.
- July 29 – MARAC US Counties QSO Party. Exchange is RST, State and County Abbreviation.
- August 5 and 6 – ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest. Exchange is 6-character grid square on all bands 222 MHz and up.

- August 5 and 6 – North American QSO Party, CW. Exchange is name and state.
- August 12 – Kentucky State Parks on the Air. Exchange is state.
- August 12 and 13 – Maryland/DC QSO Party. Exchange is class and state. Most of us operating from home will be a “Standard” station.
- August 19 and 20 – North American QSO Party, SSB. Exchange is name and state.
- August 20 – ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY. Exchange is name, 2-digit year first licensed and state.
- August 26 through 28 – Hawaii QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- August 26 and 27 – Worldwide Digi DX Contest. Exchange is 4-character grid square.
- August 26 and 27 – W/VE Islands QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- August 26 and 27 – Kansas QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.
- August 26 and 27 – Ohio QSO Party. Exchange is RST and state.

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.

The new Motorola Quantar repeater and newer antenna have been online since early December. We continue to get good reports from users reporting they have coverage where they did not before. As you drive around, keep checking the repeater to see where you can access it. We are doing some site work for remote receivers for the 147.315 repeater. Once they come online, we will let everybody know.

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 even tried the 23 cm repeater after one net and it worked quite well. If you have an ICOM 9700, be sure to join in.

We also have one of the few 33 cm analog 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. There is an active group of 33 cm enthusiasts in the Richmond area and they usually have equipment to sell at the Richmond Frostfest, so this will be a good place to look.

At the Dayton Hamvention, ICOM announced a promotion only for clubs with DSTAR repeaters. ICOM will rebate the club \$500 for each repeater system (maximum 2) they buy before September 30, 2023.

I did the cost estimate on what our expected expense would be to replace the DSTAR equipment. Ham Radio Outlet lists the DSTAR repeaters for \$1,649.00 each. We will need 4, so that works out to be around \$6,570.00. We also will need the LTE unit for internet access, which lists for \$399.95. The total would be just under \$7,000.00. Add the sales tax of \$419.99 (we are not a 501c(3) organization), that works out to be \$7,419.74. The ICOM rebate of \$1,000.00 will lower our cost to \$6,419.74.

Down the road, we will need to replace antennas and feedlines for the new hospital location. At this point, we don't know how much coax cable we will need, or what antennas we will need. The issue is that one of the two towers will have the helipad on the roof and we can't be too tall because we could interfere with the approach to the helipad. FAA takes a very dim view of those things.

The new ICOM repeaters will run both DSTAR and analog FM. We should also look at another one for our 23 cm analog voice repeater, which is already 30 plus years old. There are many club members with ICOM 9700s that do 23 cm FM and DSTAR.

As I mentioned on a recent net, the Alexandria Radio Club's GMRS repeater is on the air. The frequency is 462.625 with a PL tone of 123.0 Hz. The primary purpose of the GMRS repeater is for Alexandria Radio Club and ARES to interface with Alexandria CERT. It gives CERT a way to communicate around the city and surrounding area. Check it out as you drive around. It should have similar coverage to our 70 cm repeater. Do not use your amateur radio callsign on GMRS, you need a separate GMRS license to use it. N8IK is collecting GMRS callsigns and the list is growing daily. There are no club callsigns for GMRS like in amateur radio.

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 2023 club dues as reflected with the Club Treasurer. If you have paid club dues for 2023 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, K4K BK—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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ARC-SHORTS compiled by Jan A. Maas (KB2LRX) – ARC Public Information Officer