



1954-2024 — 70th Anniversary



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
March 2024

- ▶ **President's Corner**
- ▶ **Member News**
- ▶ **Activities and Events**
- ▶ **ARES**
- ▶ **Next Meeting**
- ▶ **Last Meeting**
- ▶ **Club Leadership**



In ARC trailer at **George Washington's Birthday Parade**. Clockwise from left: Cecilia Wells (runner), Sean K4KBK, Gary KC5QCN, Richard KW4UJ. Story and more pictures below.

President's Corner

Sean (K4KBK)

We've nearly made it through another snowless but wet winter. Don't forget to set those clocks ahead on the 10th so you won't be late to Winterfest!

In the past month, the Club actively supported both the **George Washington and St. Patrick's parades** on 19 February and 02 March respectively. The trailer, the radios, our new laser printer and especially our volunteers performed flawlessly and the parade committees were ecstatic with the results. We closed the GW parade day with our usual post mortem at Glory Days and that event was also a smashing success which lasted over two hours. Due to a variety of competing commitments with some of our volunteer team, we opted to push the St. Patrick's parade hot wash out a week and change it to a breakfast. We are meeting on the 9th at IHOP in Hybla Valley for our closeout! WELL DONE TEAM ARC!

Next up is the **VWS Winterfest** on 10 March at Oakton High School. We have three tables of space to accommodate some of that equipment that you are wanting to sell at a very reasonable price! Need to upgrade your license? **Gary Sessums (KC5QCN)** and his test team including our own VP **Bob Crumley (KO4ZIK)** will be conducting a test session on those fancy new electronic tablets from 10 to Noon inside the Oakton High School.

Don't forget the **VA QSO Party** on the 16th & 17th of March. I will be reaching out for a lead to coordinate our inputs to SPARC at the end of the contest. Please see me if you would be willing to take on this task.

In the background, our **trailer redesign team** is working out the details of what will be done to the trailer to make it more efficient, more functional, and more sustainable going forward. We discovered last weekend that there was a more substantial leak around one of the roof vent housings than we had originally thought. Some rain pooled above the carpeted ceiling so repairing that has become a priority to complete before the ladder rack / antenna mount system goes on. There was also a suggestion that we install a wall-hung propane heater in the trailer so that our operators wouldn't freeze up during cold weather periods in that otherwise uninsulated trailer. Research on this feature continues. Once a final draft design is complete, it will be circulated to the membership for

review and comment. Whatever scope is decided on, the trailer must be ready to go by Field Day 2024 on June 22/23. Get 'er done!

Speaking of Field Day, the reservations are again set with the City to use Chinquapin Park, the site of the 2023 Field Day. The Field Day Chair and committee staff will be announced in the very near future. Please consider volunteering to support our biggest event of the year.

73, **Sean K4KBK**

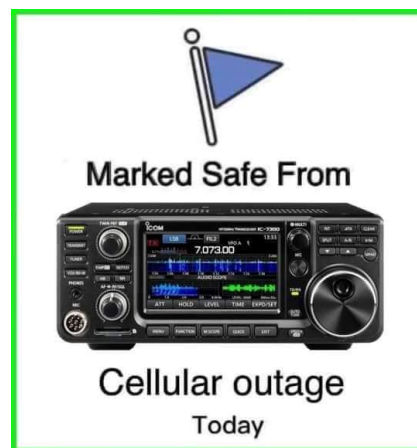
Member News

Congratulations to

Club members who completed the Net Training Course organized by **Bryan Pettigrew** (WD4ADF): **Alex Lammers** (KO4ZMC), **Todd Jenkins** (KQ5T), **Sean Gallagher** (K4KBK), and **Derek Fossi** (KQ4NAI). We're already hearing them on "Two-Meter Excitement."

When All Else Fails®

After the AT&T outage last month, **Bob Lepelletier** (KI3O) shared this:



Activities and Events

Licensing Classes Begin

Classes (for Technician and General) began Tuesday, March 5, and will end with the test on May 7. If you know someone who wishes to become an amateur radio operator, have them contact us at training@w4hfh.org.

Vienna Winterfest, March 10

From Bob Crumley (KO4ZIK):

Vienna Wireless is hosting their annual **Winterfest** at Oakton High School on Sunday March 10th, at 0800. The high school is located at 2900 Sutton Road in Vienna.

ARC has reserved three tables for the event. If anyone has any items that you would like to sell, please let me know so we can make proper arrangements to get them over to the site, and other arrangements if you're not going to be attending the event.

If you don't have any items that you would like to sell, the Winterfest is usually a good time to get some needed items, such as cables/coax, connectors, antennas, etc., to either continue building out your shack or making a go-kit/portable set-up. A good list of vendors and events is located at the following site:

<https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest-key-info/>

Thanks. 73,
Bob KO4ZIK



Virginia QSO Party — March 16-17

Gordon Miller (NQ4K), gave a special presentation about the party at our February meeting. Details may be found at:

https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2024_VQP/2024_VQP_Main.html. The link leads to Gordon's Power Point presentation.

We Love a Parade

As we have for over 30 years, members of the Alexandria Radio Club played our traditional role of providing communications for Alexandria's annual **George Washington Birthday Parade**, February 19. So that announcers at the reviewing stand would have an accurate report of the order of march, ARC operators deployed to the staging areas before the parade and received changes in the order from parade marshals. Using hand-held radios, they reported changes to our trailer, to be forwarded to the reviewing stand.



From left: Mason (KO4ROV), Gary (KC5QCN), Bob (KO4ZIK), Joe (K4TI), Richard (KW4UJ), Alex (KO4ZMC), Sean (K4KBK), Tim (KO4VFP). More photos, next page.



Clockwise from top left: George Washington joins Rick (N4ASX), Jan (KB2LRX), Carol (KN4LLL), and Bob (KO4ZIK).

In the trailer, Gary (KC5QCN), Bob (KO4ZIK), Joe (K4TI), Andrew (KI4THF), Tim (KO4VFP) and Mason (KO4ROV) take a break from the chill.

Alex (KO4ZMC) and Andrew (KI4THF) check radios at parade registration table.

Make it Two!

On March 2, the Club performed the same comms services for the Ballyshanners' 41st Alexandria Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



ARC crew pictured with the five division parade marshals and the March Director from the Ballyshanner's: (back row) Tim (KO4VFP), Wilson (KM4KLLK), Nick (KO4SRO, of the Mt. Vernon Club), Sean (K4KBK), Sandy (KQ4DNE); (in front) Mason (KO4ROV), and Bob (K04ZIK). Alex (KO4ZMC) and Sue Gallaher (K4KBK XYL) also served.

Contests:

- Mar. 9-10, South America 10m Contest, sa10m.com.ar
 - Mar. 16-17, All Virginia QSO Party, http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party
- (Selected from ARRL Contest Calendar www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)

Special Events:

- Mar. 8, International Women's Day YL POTA Party, www.ylrl.net
- Mar. 9, Commemorating Launching of the USS Midway on 20MAR45, www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw

- **Mar 15, Celebrating the 105th Birthday of the American Legion,**
www.post42cartersvillega.org
- **Mar 23, 1st LORAN A Station Designated (1941) K3S,** Baltimore, MD.
Nuclear Ship Savannah ARC. www.qrz.com/db/k3s 7.1
- **Mar. 30-Apr. 10, Total Solar Eclipse in Hunt County Texas.**
<https://k5gvl.com/w5e-total-solar-eclipse-special-event-station/>
- **Apr. 13, Commemorating USS Midway conducting first airship ops on CV.** <https://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw>
(Selected from ARRL Special Event Page www.arrl.org/special-event-stations)

ARES – Rick, N4ASX

Last month I announced that I would be resigning from the Alexandria EC position. In talks with the State Section Manager and Section Emergency Coordinator, **I WILL** stay on until a new EC can be trained to Level III and in how we work in Alexandria. I have one candidate that is now an Assistant EC (we now have three).

Spring is coming and, with it, different weather. I urge all volunteers to maintain their go-kits, update their radios, and stay radioactive.

Our organization (Alexandria ARES) is small with only 26 volunteers. We need more and younger volunteers!! Some of us are getting old and less able to respond in an emergency. We have positions for everyone, of every ability level, but we need more ARES volunteers!!

If you want to volunteer, let me know (N4ASX@cox.net) and I will send you the sign-up form and the training “task book.”

There are THREE levels of training:

LEVEL 1 – Basic Volunteer – You are a licensed amateur radio operator and are willing to help in an emergency.

LEVEL 2 – You have COMPLETED FEMA IS-100 and IS-700. This allows you to work as an ARES volunteer at Red Cross Shelters and Incident Command points. FEDERAL law requires these classes if you are assigned to these locations or positions. IS-200 and IS-800 are recommended but not required for level II.

LEVEL 3 – Level 3 is management training. There are MANY IS classes required and a learning about the structure and management of ARES organizations.

We are lucky that we do not have natural disasters that hit places like Florida, California, or other states, but it is still important that we have a credible organization.

As always, I am looking for feedback on the ARES Operations Manual. Let me know what you think should be included.

The Trailer now has a documentation notebook which contains manuals for all the installed radios and basic operating instructions. I will add our ARES Operations manual and each radio's frequency list later.

73, **Rick N4ASX**

Next Meeting

Will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, March 8, at the Alexandria Police Department Community Room, 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

Last Meeting

Minutes – Carol (KN4LLL)

Date: February 9, 2024

Time: 1900 hours

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

Presentation:

- Topic: Virginia QSO Party 16-17 March 2024
- Presenter: Gordon Miller, NQ4K

Reports—

President: Sean K4KBK

- Reviewed Membership Organization Chart with newly appointed positions
 - Need a Membership Chair for recruiting
 - Rick will stay on as ARES chief through the spring; need a replacement for him
- Rick and Sean cleaned up the trailer and repaired the generator in preparation for the GWB Parade
- Jan needs assistance with marketing and promotion to fill in as needed

Secretary: Carol KN4LLL

- Briefed 12 January Meeting Minutes.

Treasurer: Erik KI4BXV

- Current Balance = \$13,610.16
 - Waiting on DSL Refund
 - Made a transfer from Pay Pal to Savings account
 - 50/50 proceeds and Member Renewals are pending

Membership: Bob KO4ZIK

- No report

ARES/RACES: Rick N4ASX

- No report

Repeaters: Richard KW4UJ

- No report

AREDN Project: Joe KT3I

- Marine Corps Marathon requested to use our AREDN infrastructure
 - Save the Date – 27 October 2024 – Contact Joe to get involved
 - Registration will be easier this year – one step to volunteer

Education/Training: Richard KW4UJ

- Five people have signed up for licensing class that starts on 5 March

Trailer: Sean K4KBK

- Generator has been rebuilt

Webmaster: Richard KW4UJ

- Always looking for website content

PIO: Jan KB2LRX

- Jan asked members to save the date of Sunday, June 2
 - The club will have a table at the annual Alexandria D-Day commemoration, sponsored by the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee. (Caen, in Normandy, was a prime objective for the Allied invasion, June 6, 1944.) We hosted a table at the event last year and had many inquiries about ham radio.
 - This year, we hope to get some vintage radios through the Army Museum at Fort Belvoir.

Net Control – Bryan WD4ADF

- Still need to fill slots for the month – don't be shy! Sign up!
- New Hams Net Control class started with four students

Old Business – Sean K4KBK

- 2024 Annual Budget Approval
 - Sandy KQ4DNE made a motion to approve
 - Bryan WD4ADF seconded the motion
 - Members voted to approve

New Business – Sean K4KBK

- Vice-President Election nominees presented by Gary KC5QCN and Sandy KQ4DNE
 - Nominees for VP – Bob Crumley KO4ZIK and Board Member Paul Cataldo KQ4LJS
 - Motion was made by Ian N8IK and seconded by Erik KI4BXU to accept the nominees presented
- Slate was accepted by acclamation

- Upcoming Events:
 - Winterfest (Oakton HS) – March 10
 - VA QSO Party – March 16-17

Adjournment: 2038 hours

Attendance (26)

Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign	Name	Call Sign
Gary	KC5QCN	Ted	W9TCE	Sean	K4KBK
Jim	W4YUE	Ryan	KO4EBY	Paul	KQ4LJS
Mason	KO4ROV	Todd	KQ5T	Richard	KW4UJ
Sandy	KQ4DNE	Bryan	WD4ADF	Bob	KO4ZIK
Carol	KN4LLL	Jeff	KQ4CMA	Jan	KB2LRX
Jay	KV3W	Bjorn	KC3AOO	Peter	N2KFA
Ian	N8IK	Derek	WB4DAM	Gordon Miller	NQ4K
Erik	KI4BXU	Marshall	KQ4NTB	Carol Miller	
Scott	KM4RDR	Alex	KO4ZMC		

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.

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>

Club Leadership

Elected Officers for 2024 * †

Sean Gallagher, K4KBK—President

Bob Crumley, KO4ZIK

—Vice President

Carol Myers, KN4LLL—Secretary

Erik Misavage, KI4BXU—Treasurer

Elected Board of Directors, At Large* †

Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE

Joseph A. Porcelli, KT3I

Paul Cataldo, KQ4LJS

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

† Don Lewis, KI4D, was elected President in November, 2023, but resigned for health reasons on Jan. 12, 2024, at which time Sean Gallagher assumed the Presidency. The office of Vice President and a Director's position was filled by a special election at the February 9, 2024 meeting.

Committee Chairmen

Jan Maas, KB2LRX—Public Information Officer (PIO)

Gary Sessums, KC5QCN—Club Metro Area Liaison

Past Presidents/Life Members

Rich Adamy, KA4GFY (Life Member)

Rick Bunn, N4ASX (Life Member)

Marshall DeBerry, KI4MWP (Life Member)

Ted Einersen, W9TCE

Harry Jones, N4CWP (Life Member)

Ian Keith, N8IK

Tom Kirby, KJ4FUU

Don Lewis, KI4D

Richard Morani, KW4UJ

Jim Stone, W4YUE

Larry Walker, K4LDW

Monica Wilson, KC2IAY

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)

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

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

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ARC-SHORTS compiled by Jan A. Maas (KB2LRX) – ARC Public Information Officer