



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
January 2026

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Scott Hartman, W6GOU, chats with Stanley Kahn at the ARC Christmas Party, Dec. 6. Story and pictures below.

President's Corner

Aaron Kahn (K6HLC)

I would first like to say thank you to everyone at the club for entrusting this position to me. I would also like to thank all the other board members, both old and new, for their time spent making this club possible. I will work hard to make the club the best it can be for both you, the members, and the broader community.

Towards making more community among the membership, there was quite a good turnout at the Holiday party. I was sorry to have to leave early due to bedtime for my son (who was also at the party), but I heard that there were some “interesting” gifts exchanged.

There are some events coming around the corner. First, there is **Winter Field Day**. It will take place January 24-25 at Fire Station 210 on Eisenhower Avenue. This is always a fun time and a good chance to meet other club members and to work stations from all over the world. There will be more to say about the schedule in the near future, but I encourage any member to come out and have a chance to make some contacts. Next, **Winterfest 2026** will be held Sunday March 15. See the web site (<https://viennawireless.net/wp/winterfest/>) for more information. This is a great chance to clear out the shack, or add to it.

The next order of business for the club will be voting on the proposed budget for 2026. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, and to hear about your latest contacts.

On a personal note, over the holiday break I had an opportunity to rummage through my late grandfather's items. In my investigation, I was able to locate an image of him operating a rig with his (my) call sign affixed to it. I also came across a newspaper article from 1956 where a Ham in Rhode Island enabled my mother, aunt, and grandmother to communicate with my grandfather in Antarctica. He was there for Operation Deep Freeze 1. I found this story very encouraging, illustrating exactly how Ham radio can really make connections happen.

73, Aaron, K6HLC

Member News

Welcome New Members

Oleg Khromov — KZ4FY

Alex Lovell-Troy — KR4CDR

Eileen Palma — KD3CIN (New Tech! Congrats!)

Scenes from our Christmas Party



The Alexandria Radio Club gathered at Aldo's Italian Kitchen for its annual Christmas party on December 6. Good cheer prevailed, awards were handed out, and gifts were exchanged, as the club toasted a successful 2025 and looked forward to a bright 2026, with lots of ham activity in store.



Gary Niki (KC7TNU) worked his camera overtime. (Clockwise from upper left) Erik Misavage (KI4BXU) and assorted friends. Gary Niki with Gary Sessums (KC5QCN) and Don Lewis (KI4D). With Sue and Sean Gallagher (K4KBK). With Mike Washville, the ARC repeater troubleshooter.



(Left) Gary Niki (KC7TNU) gave everyone an envelope for good luck and prosperity in the coming year, featuring a Fire Dragon and a Chinese coin—an early taste of the Chinese Year of the Fire Dragon that starts Feb. 17. (Right) Jason Palma (WA6MPR) hit the Hello Kitty jackpot in the gift exchange. (For the uninitiated: Hello Kitty Radio is a running gag on the Thursday night net.) Jason’s wife, Eileen, has joined the ham ranks as KD3CIN.

AWARDS

Outgoing President Sean Gallagher (K4KBK) gave awards to several members for their service to the Club.



(From left) Jason Palma-WA6MPR: Deployable-Radio Roadshow & POTA Prodigy (from 2024). Bryan Pettigrew-W4ADF: Principal Network Navigator & Primary Spark Generator. Ed MacDonald-KQ4YGT: Rhubarb Rookie Award for the Net Control Commando.



(From left) Ted Einersen-W9TCE: Local Ham Radio History Savant & Traveler Extraordinaire. Ian Keith-N8IK: Voice of the ARC D-STAR Nets & Recognized CW Wizard. Skip Dronen-KO2THF: Rising Star Award.



(From left) Stefano "Stex" Fonda-K4IEW: Multi-National Radio Operator & Full-Spectrum Tactical Planner. Austin Klob-KQ4ZCO: Rockstar Rookie Award. Jan Maas-KB2LRX: Virtual Voice of the Club & Award-Winner Newsletter Producer.



(From left) Richard Morani-KW4UJ: Digital Dynamo, Hybrid Producer & Treasurer of the Realm. Gary Sessums-KC5QCN: Metro Liaison & Sheriff of the Voting Process. Not present was Joe Porcelli-KT3I: Field Operations Czar.

Upcoming Training Classes

SKYWARN

The National Weather Service Baltimore/Washington Weather Forecast Office will be hosting a Basics SKYWARN Class in Fairfax, VA. The 2-hour training session will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026 @ 6:00 pm. The class will be held at the McConnell Public Safety & Transportation Operations Center. Parking is in front of the building, and you will go through security at the entrance. 4890 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 Sign up here https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8hqg_YXlutGYHSF058-HnCRH_4KI5QJbOCmctHUyMiB_GEG/viewform

Amateur Radio Extra Class

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and will run through Thursday, March 26. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. Sessions will be recorded. Those attending should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License. The classes are sponsored by the National Electronics Museum. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net.

Alexandria Radio Club Date Book

Coming Events

Saturday & Sunday, January 24-25: Winter Field Day, Fire Station 210, 5255 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria.

Saturday, February 14: George Washington Parade, Market Square, Alexandria.

Saturday, March 7: Ballyshaners St. Patrick's Day Parade, Market Square, Alexandria.

ARC Club Repeaters

6m: 53.130– (PL 107.2)
2m: 147.315+ (PL 107.2)
1.25m: 224.820– (PL 107.2)
70cm: 444.600+ (PL 107.2)
33cm: 927.600– (PL107.2)
23cm: 1282.600– (PL 107.2)
D-STAR 2m: 145.380–
D-STAR 70cm: 442.060+
D-STAR 23cm: 1284.600–
DMR 70 cm: 442.4125 +5Mhz Color Code 1

Activities and Events

Contests/QSO Parties:

- **Jan. 10-11, North American QSO Party (CW).** <https://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
- **Jan. 17-18, North American QSO Party (SSB).**
<https://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>
(Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

Special Events:

- **Jan. 10, 1700Z-2359Z, Operation Desert Storm, NI6IW.** San Diego, CA, USS Midway Museum Ship. <https://www.qrz.com/db/ni6iw>
- **Jan. 24, 1300-2200Z, First Wireless-coordinated High Seas Rescue 1909, K3S.** Port of Baltimore, Md. Nuclear Ship Savannah.
<https://www.qrz.com/db/K3S>
- **Feb. 14, 6th Annual Pluto Discovery Anniversary S.E., W7P.** Flagstaff, AZ, Northern Arizona DX Association. <https://www.nadxa.com/>
(Selected from ARRL Special Events Calendar <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

Next Meeting

Friday, January 9, 1900 hours, Alexandria Police Department HQ, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304.

Last Meeting

Date: December 6, 2025

Time: 1800 hours

Location: Christmas Party. Aldo's Italian Kitchen, 2850 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Club Leadership

Elected Officers for 2026 *

Aaron Kahn, K6HLC—President

William “Skip” Dronen, Jr., KO2THF
—Vice President

Mike Joyce, KQ4WOI—Secretary

Richard Morani, KW4UJ—Treasurer

Elected Board of Directors, At Large*

Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DNE

Joseph A. Porcelli, KT3I

Sean Gallagher, K4KBK

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

Committee Chairmen

Jan Maas, KB2LRX—Public Information Officer (PIO)

Gary Sessums, KC5QCN—Club Metro Area Liaison

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

<mailto:president@w4hfh.org> president@w4hfh.org

<mailto:vice-president@w4hfh.org> vice-president@w4hfh.org

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