



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
June 2026

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President's Corner

Aaron Kahn (K6HLC)

I would first like to say that I am excited that **Field Day** is just around the corner. It is something that I enjoy participating in. I think that it is because of the opportunity to participate in this great hobby directly with other like-minded people (and do it all night long!). I would also like to say with summer starting, there will be other volunteer activities popping up. Please see some of the events down the column in the newsletter. In addition, pay attention to the POTA events broadcast on the email. These events are like mini field days. For net events, I hope all saw the message on the **special June 15 net**. Bryan has put together a joint net with Mt. Vernon ARC, and will take place June 15 at 1930 on the K4US repeater (146.655MHz, -0.6MHz, PL 141.3 Hz).

I cannot end without mentioning the passing of **Gary Sessums**. He spent a large portion of his life participating in the amateur radio hobby, and I personally thank him for helping me get my license. He will be missed.

Till next time,

73, Aaron, K6HLC

Member News

Welcome New Members

John Cosimano – N3WKJ

Philip B. Space – K4HGQ

Congratulations, Ian



Ian Keith (N8IK) has won the **ARRL DXCC Trident award**, which recognizes amateur radio operators who have confirmed QSLs with 100 or more current DXCC Award countries on all three modes: CW (Morse Code), Phone (Voice), Digital (FTX, RTTY, PSK, etc.)

Photo right shows Ian in a rare moment on voice mode.



Remembering Gary Sessums, KC5QCN (SK)

December 25, 1958 – May 13, 2026

May was a very tough month as we lost our very good friend, Gary Sessums to a massive stroke. In addition to being one of THE most contributing members to ARC, Gary was also an American Patriot, a selfless Leader, and a good Christian man. In the Amateur Radio Community, Gary was a mentor to all, whether the topic was technical, organizational or operational. He was always extoling the virtues of good solid radio communications and the value of the amateur radio community. Gary made special efforts to welcome the public at our community demonstrations and related activities. He operated as the Ambassador of Amateur Radio in Northern Virginia.



Willing to put his money where his mouth was, Gary deployed to Puerto Rico in late 2017 as part of a US government FEMA team to reestablish communications after the devastating hurricane (Maria) hit the island, collapsing most of the infrastructure and killing nearly 3,000 of its inhabitants. Gary's innate talent, expertise, and "MacGyverish" ability allowed him to successfully accomplish his mission to reestablish critical communications, saving many lives in the process.



At the time of his passing, Gary was our club's regional liaison to the other area radio clubs, chair of our election nominations and voting process committee, and a regular participant in any event or activity that the Alexandria Radio Club (W4HFH) was involved in. Concurrently, Gary was also President and Call Sign Trustee for the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) and President and Emergency Coordinator for the Arlington Amateur Radio Club (AARC). He established the "Day in the Park / Parks on the Air" activity, a monthly event at the Columbia Island Marina where AARC and ARC teamed up to practice our field deployment capabilities and provide explanations and capabilities

demonstrations to all who stopped by the exhibit. In his spare time, Gary was also involved with the Fairlington Social Club and the Shirlington Running Club acting as their social coordinator, promoting good will and cheer among the members and encouraging new people to join them.



Gary, a living example of servant leadership, filled many more roles across his community. He was a big promoter of getting Scouts on the air, locally hosting “Jamborees on the Air” in October each year as part of a National ARRL/Scouting program to get Scouts interested in radio wave communications, an effort that would lead to a Radio Merit Badge for the participating scouts.

Gary had a good run and was involved in many positive things. He has left some massive shoes to fill across all of his organizations going forward but I’m confident that we, like Gary, will rise to challenge.

Sean Gallagher– K4KBK

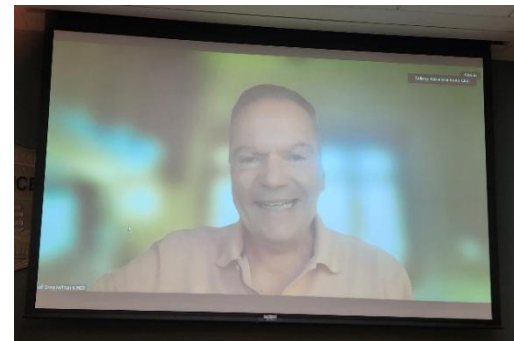
Gary’s obituary can be viewed <https://www.ottandlee.com/obituaries/gary-sessums>

A story about his running exploits is at <https://www.vicksburgpost.com/sports/sports-column-run-thru-history-icon-gary-sessums-has-run-his-race>

Activities and Events

Last Meeting Presentation

At our May meeting, **Greg Mihran, KJ6ER**, gave a presentation about the family of antennas he has developed over the years. Speaking via Zoom link from his home in California, Greg said that he designs antennas for *Performance* (efficiency), *Elegance* (speed and simplicity of deployment), and *Convenience* (ease of transport and storage) and makes the designs available for free at <https://kj6er.net/>. He gave a detailed look at the PERformer quarter-wave antenna. This presentation is available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LwSbXXeovjJdT8ijpOi-9FYR--nNsxD/view>.



ARC Marks D-Day with Alexandria

Right: Sean (K4KBK), Stex (K4IEW), and Jan (KB2LRX) represented the Alexandria Radio Club at Alexandria's annual D-Day Commemoration, May 31, at John Carlyle Square. Dozens of people asked us about ham radio, and many took club hand-outs and expressed interest in attending our Field Day.



Left: "General George S. Patton, Jr." dropped by for a chat. (Patton interpreter Sidney O. Wade, Jr.)



Club Merchandise Now Available
<https://alexandriarc.goldmedalideas.com/>

**Order caps and shirts
with the ARC logo and your call sign.**

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– (PL 107.2)
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
GMRS: 467.625+ (PL 123.0)

Hamfests:

- **Saturday, June 20, Manassas Hamfest.** Sponsored by Old Virginia Hams. Colgan High School, 13833 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA.
<https://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest/>

Contests/QSO Parties:

- **June 20. West Virginia QSO Party.** <https://www.qsl.net/wvqp>
- **June 20. ARRL Kids Day.** <https://www.arrl.org/kids-day>
(Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

Special Events:

Thirteen Colonies— Operating July 1-8. Dates and hours vary. Visit <https://13colonies.us/> for details.

- **July 11, 1400Z-2000Z, K4RC. Colonial Williamsburg.** Williamsburg ARC, Williamsburg, VA. <https://www.k4rc.net>
(Selected from ARRL Special Events Calendar <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

Next Meeting

Friday, May 8, 1900 hours, Alexandria Police Department HQ, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304. Featuring plans for Field Day.

Last Meeting Minutes

Date: May 8, 2026

Time: 1900 hours

Location: Alexandria Police Department HQ, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304.

1. Call to Order & Opening

- Meeting called to order by Aaron Kahn, K6HLC, at 1900 hours.
- Club member introductions were conducted.
- New members / visitors welcomed: Liz and Tyler (recently licensed), and Terry (first meeting).
- Moment of Silence observed for Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, who suffered a major stroke last week.
 - Sean, K4KBK, provided a brief update and asked for prayers and hope for Gary's recovery.
 - Bob, KO4ZIK, noted that Gary had his hands in everything; clubs are working to take over activities Gary would want to continue, including keeping testing going. Members are encouraged to reach out to help.

2. Awards & Certificates

- No awards or certificates to present since the last meeting.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Aaron, K6HLC, asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the last meeting. None were noted.
- Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes made. Motion seconded.
- Result: Minutes approved.

4. Recent Events

Cherry Blossom Recap

- Sandy, KQ4DNE, provided a recap of the Cherry Blossom event.
- A vehicle entered the road during the race and had to be addressed. The water truck was placed at an aid station instead of the water station.
- Tip for future aid station volunteers: consider bringing a GMRS radio to communicate with local support vehicles.
- Sandy mentioned the Fredericksburg Marathon is upcoming for members interested in supporting.
- Stex, K4IEW, added that there was difficulty hearing net control, who was in a crowd with significant background noise. His own location was under a bridge and echoed considerably. The event was a learning experience.
- Sean, K4KBK, noted this was the first time ham radio was used at the event.

Citizens Corps Council (CCC) Update – Sean, K4KBK

- The CCC is reworking its charter. ARC will lead communication improvement efforts, as communication is identified as one of the weakest links in the current volunteer chain.
- Goal: Convince volunteers to obtain a GMRS license, noting the low cost.
- Looking to build a “Volunteer Communication Group” within ARC to teach radio etiquette to FRS/GMRS users.
- Stex, K4IEW, added that Sandy, KQ4DNE, deserves credit for marketing radio to a younger crowd; he sees ARC as complementary to the volunteer group.
- Sean noted it is a great opportunity and good first step. Five team members participated: Skip, KO2THF; Sandy, KQ4DNE; Sean, K4KBK; Stex, K4IEW; and Jan, KB2LRX.

5. Upcoming Events

- D-Day Commemoration – May 31st, John Carlisle Square. Jan, KB2LRX, is coordinating; members who wish to come and do demonstrations should contact Jan. It is a good family event, the weekend after Memorial Day.
- Summer Field Day – June. See Field Day section below.

6. Officer Reports

Board Report – Skip, KO2THF

- SKYWARN training was held last night with good club participation.
- ARC is now an official partner of VA250 and may legally use the VA250 logo.
- Planning to invite AARC and the Pentagon club to ARC Field Day if they need support.
- The club can always use more Volunteer Examiners (VEs).

Secretary Report – Mike, KQ4WOI

- No corrections to previous meeting minutes.

Treasurer Report – Richard, KW4UJ

- P&L for April: Net income of \$44.52.

- Basic checking balance: \$1,195.64; outstanding checks: \$705.00; actual operable balance: \$490.00.
- Note: Deposit for last month's 50/50 not yet received.
- Total funds in bank: \$13,211.30.

7. Committee Reports

Membership – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- A recent licensing class concluded. Sandy will be reaching out to new hams to encourage involvement with the club.
- Congratulations extended to new members from the recent testing session.

Public Information Officer – Jan, KB2LRX

- Book donation to the Alexandria Public Library has been completed; books are not yet in the library catalog.

Repeater Status – Ian, N8IK

- All repeaters are fully functional. No complaints reported.

Emergency Communications – Stex, K4IEW

- No significant updates at this time.
- Work has begun on an Emergency Communications book for the club; Stex plans to share a draft with members this summer.

Training and Testing – Bob, KO4ZIK / Richard, KW4UJ

- The recent class concluded successfully; five new hams graduated.
- The next licensing class will be held in the fall.
- Bob is considering changes to reduce attrition and make classes more interactive and less lecture-heavy. He is seeking member feedback.
 - Sean asked whether time investment is a factor; Bob noted it is more about engagement.
 - New tech book is coming out soon; will need evaluation before the next class.
 - Looking for additional instructors.
- Liz and Tyler (on Zoom) provided feedback: different approaches work for different learners; agreed the class could benefit from more hands-on and practical content rather than reading slides.
- Bob asked members about interest in a General or Extra class; Tech is just a license to learn. Richard invited Liz and Tyler to Field Day.

Trailer – Sean, K4KBK

- Trailer is operational. Cleaning for Field Day is underway.
- Members who want to help with trailer prep should contact Sean.

Webmaster – Richard, KW4UJ

- No major updates. Members-only area of the website is almost ready for rollout.

Socials – Jason, WA6MPR

- No updates.

Net Control – Bryan, WD4ADF

- April was a great month with three special nets.
- Taking a break from special nets in May.
- Working on a joint FM net with other local clubs.
- Hoping to move away from ad hoc special nets and toward scheduled nets.
- Looking to expand nets and net control stations.
- Bryan is looking for a second-in-command to assist with nets.

Summer Field Day

- Field Day is coming up in June. Members interested in operating, setting up, or tear-down should reach out.

8. Old Business

- No old business to report.

9. New Business

Club Badges – Bob, KO4ZIK

- Bob is awaiting a finalized badge design so he can have one made at HamVention as sample.

Club Calendar

- Field Day and D-Day Commemoration need to be added to the club calendar.

10. General Comments

- Sandy: The ISS is conducting SSTV QSL card operations this weekend (starting 6:30 AM today through Tuesday). Members who download photos should reach out to Sandy for assistance submitting them.
- Stex: POTA update – participated in the Delaware QSO contest. Had to use cones to protect his antenna setup. Did not make any Delaware contacts.
- Jan asked Bob about his POTA activation; Bob made a contact from Ford's Theatre.
- Bob reminded members that many are attending HamVention and are happy to pick up equipment for those who are looking for something.
- Aaron mentioned he has antenna links in the newsletter for members to review.

Ask an Elmer

- Scott is looking for help programming his Yaesu HT.

11. Action Items

Responsible Party	Action Item
Sandy, KQ4DNE	Reach out to new hams from recent testing session to encourage club involvement.

Responsible Party	Action Item
Jan, KB2LRX	Coordinate with volunteers for D-Day Commemoration demonstrations on May 31st.
Richard, KW4UJ / Webmaster	Complete rollout of members-only area of the club website.
All Members Interested	Reach out to Sandy, KQ4DNE, for assistance submitting ISS SSTV QSL cards (through Tuesday).
All Members Interested	Reach out to volunteer for Field Day (June).
All Members	Volunteer as a VE to support future licensing sessions. Contact the club.

12. Adjournment

- Motion to close formal meeting, Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by: Mike Joyce, KQ4WOI

Email questions to secretary@w4hfh.org

Detailed Meeting Attendance

Recorded Attendance, May 8, 2026 (26 in person, 4 remotely)

Aaron, K6HLC	Sandy, KQ4DNE	Bryan, WD4ADF	Jaclyn	
Skip, KO2THF	Richard, KW4UJ	Erik, KI4BXU	Jack, W4JJ	Tyler, KR4MAD
Ian, N8IK	Stex, K4IEW	Ted, W9TCE	Jan, KB2LRX	Liz, KR4MAL
Mike, KQ4WOI	Bob, KO4ZIK	John, KE4JEM	Mait, AA4HS	Ed, KQ4YGT
Sean, K4KBK	Larry, KQ4SBC	Jon, KD3BGT	Wilson, KM4KLK	Gary, KC7TNU
Scott, W6GOU	Jack, KE7VQU	Terry, KR4LXV	Andrew, KI4THF	
Bert, N1MXO	Brian, KN4NHM			

Club Leadership

Elected Officers for 2026 *

Aaron Kahn, K6HLC—President

William A. “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)

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