



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
July 2026

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



Aaron (K6HLC) was part of the night-shift crew at our Field Day. Story and more pictures below.

President's Corner

Aaron Kahn (K6HLC)

What a full month this has been. I must first give a big shout out to all the people who came together to make the 2026 Field Day event go so smoothly. The Club had quite a number of members of all license levels come out to participate in the event. I know that I had a great time making contacts and talking with everyone under the canopy. Next, I want to say thanks to the members of the Club who stayed up and supported the July 4 event and Emergency Operations backup. The professionalism of everyone involved really makes the Club shine to the outside world. Again, thanks for the support in all of these events.

On a different note, I recently went on vacation with my family to Bermuda. I have never operated radio out of the United States and was interested in trying. After a little research I found that Bermuda, along with a long list of countries,

has reciprocity with United States Amateur Radio operators. After a sum of zero dollars and almost zero effort of emailing the Licensing Administrator of Bermuda with my travel information and a copy of my license, I was granted within a day a temporary operating license for Bermuda, K6HLC/VP9. If you too are interested in operating outside of the United States, I encourage you to look up the requirements for the particular country, and I think you will be surprised just how easy it is to get a temporary license.

Till next time, Aaron (K6HLC)

Member News

Welcome New Members

Tyler Richmond – KR4MAD

Elizabeth “Liz” Nguyen – KR4MAL

Damaris Cruz – KD3DFL

Operation: Bird Rescue

By Aaron Kahn (K6HLC)

While on a recent vacation trip with my family to Bermuda, I decided to try to operate my HT on the 2m and 70cm bands. With very little effort I was granted a temporary license from the Regulator Authority of Bermuda to operate as K6HLC/VP9. Once at the rental property, I was able to quickly make some local contacts on both 2m and 70cm via the repeater run by the Radio Society of Bermuda. During a QSO with Ed (VP9GE) and Dexter (VP9NNV) I noticed a white bird which appeared to be caught in some fishing line not far from where I and my family were staying. I described the bird's appearance and Ed identified the bird as a Bermuda Long Tail. Dexter then asked for details on the approximate location of the bird. After providing this information via the 2m repeater, Dexter called the Bermuda aquarium for a biologist to come and help rescue the bird.

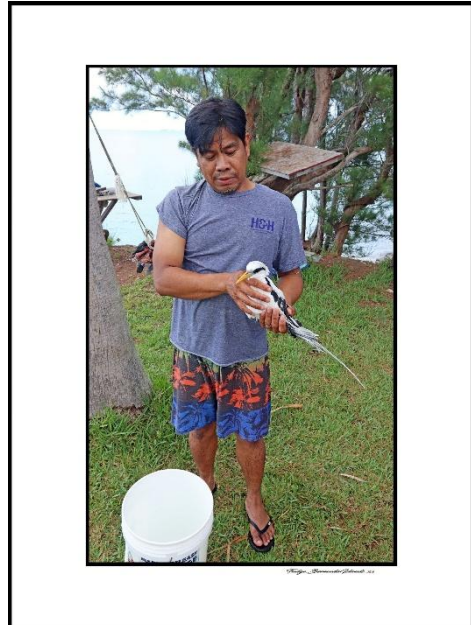
I stayed at my location and Dexter (VP9NNV) drove over. The two of us then met with the renters of the home in which the fishing line originated. After a brief period of time, the bird was rescued and cut from the fishing line by the

owner of the fishing tackle. The aquarium biologist arrived and transported the bird to the aquarium for observation. After a day, it was successfully released back into the wild.

This successful wildlife rescue could not have happened without the simple QSO via amateur radio. Seeing the operation come together over 2m using handi-talkies was inspiring. It is also nice to have such a happy ending for the bird.



Bermuda Long Tail bird entangled in fishing line. The line was wrapped around the bird's wings, neck, and body. Without assistance it would have died. Photo by Dexter (VP9NNV)



Bermuda Long Tail after rescue and fishing line removed. The man in the picture swam and cut the line releasing the bird, which was then carried in the bucket shown. The rest of the fishing line was then removed on land. The bird was later transported to the national aquarium for observation and later released back into the wild. Photo by Dexter (VP9NNV)

73, Aaron, K6HLC

Activities and Events

Field Day 2026

ARC set up and operated another successful Field Day in Chinquapin Park, June 27-28. Although heavy weather had been predicted, the worst never came—but showers caused an early shut-down on Sunday morning.

Operating Stations & Band Captains

6M/10M **Skip, KO2THF**

15M **Jay, KV3W**

20M SSB/Digital/CW **Jason, WA6MPR**

40M CW **Ian, N8IK** 40M SSB/Digital **Aaron, K6HLC**

80M/160M **Skip, KO2THF / Ian, N8IK (CW)**

VHF/UHF/6M **Joe, KT3I** Satellite **Joe, KT3I**

Get-on-the-Air (GOTA) **Bob, KO4ZIK**

In addition, many other club members dropped in to enjoy the action. Other hams who had heard about Field Day also visited, including one, Damaris Cruz, KD3DFL, who joined on the spot and spent the day. A middle schooler got on the air at the GOTA station and then got a CW lesson from Ian, N8IK.



Clockwise from left: Ian-N8IK, Keith-K2VG, and Maitland-AA4HS, erect an antenna. Joe-KT3I (r.) shows off the satellite antenna to Marnie-N9AWG and Terrance-K3TLA. Jason-WA6MPR coaches Damaris-KD3DFL. Ian-N8IK takes a break from CW.

EmComm Notes

ARC Supports DC HSEMA

During Historic 4th of July Celebrations

As the nation gathered to celebrate Independence Day and mark the historic 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Alexandria Radio Club (ARC) was on the ground, providing critical communications support to the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA).

The specialized operation lasted 10 hours, ensuring seamless coordination and an extra layer of safety during one of the largest public celebrations in recent history.

Club members, with some Arlington augmentees, dedicated their time and expertise to monitoring airwaves and maintaining vital links. Serving as the vital bridge between organizations was **Sean, K4KBK**, who acted as both the operation supervisor and the official liaison officer to the Alexandria authorities, **Joe, KR4AHM**, **Jeff, KQ4CMA**, **Andrew, KI4THF**, **Alex, KO4ZMC**, **all operating as W4HFH**. As ARC EmComm Director I opened and closed the link with the Net Control Station and maintained contact with the volunteer operators to ensure backup and oversee the handover between assigned shifts. It was not a particularly arduous task, as I had the privilege of being assisted by experienced amateur radio operators. The inter-club effort, involving operators from Alexandria and Arlington, should also be viewed as continuing the tradition so well represented by the late **Gary, KC5QCN**.

While the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was not fully activated for the event, it remained on high alert, ready to respond instantly to any escalating situation. The multi-district effort was well coordinated by Elizabeth Goodson, K4LIZ, DC MARP Net Control together with Richard Strait, AC8AL, Karen Strait, KD8DHJ and James Farley, Interoperability Coordinator for HSEMA Division of Operations & Intelligence.

In the grand scale of a nationwide major celebration, a localized amateur radio deployment might seem like a minor detail. However, it is precisely these quiet, focused contributions that form the backbone of public safety. When cell networks choke under the pressure of hundreds of thousands of spectators, amateur radio operators provide an unshakeable, independent infrastructure. By managing local traffic, keeping a watchful eye on potential issues, and

maintaining a state of readiness alongside agencies like HSEMA, the Alexandria Radio Club proved once again that community-driven preparedness is invaluable.

Large-scale security isn't just built on massive agency activations; it is woven together by the dedication of volunteers who ensure that when a historic moment arrives, the lines of communication stay open, safe, and resilient.

Stefano “Stex” Fonda – K4IEW

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, August 1, Roanoke Valley Hamfest.** Sponsored by Roanoke Valley Amateur Radio Club, Roanoke, VA. <https://w4ca.com/>
- **Sunday, August 2, SVARC Berryville Hamfest.** Sponsored by Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club, Berryville, VA.
<https://svarc.us/hamfest/>
- **Saturday, August 8, Southeastern Virginia Regional Hamfest and Swap Meet.** Sponsored by Tidewater Radio Conventions, Newport News, VA. <https://trcihamfest.com/>
- **Saturday, August 22 - Sunday, August 23, Huntsville Hamfest, ARRL Convention.** Huntsville, AL. <https://hamfest.org/>

Contests/QSO Parties:

- **July 25-26. Alabama QSO Party.** <https://alabamacontestgroup.org/>
Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

Special Events:

- **July 11, 1400Z-2000Z, K4RC. Colonial Williamsburg.** Williamsburg ARC, Williamsburg, VA. <https://www.k4rc.net>
- **July 17-21, 1300Z-2200Z, W3A, Commemoration of Apollo 11 Live TV from the Moon.** Sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum, Middle River, MD. <https://ww-2.us/>
- **August 15, 1000Z-2050Z, W2GSB, Fire Island Lighthouse, NA026.**
Sponsored by Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, Babylon, NY.
<https://gsbarc.org/>
(Selected from ARRL Special Events Calendar <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

Next Meeting

Friday, July 10, 1900 hours, Alexandria Police Department HQ, 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22304.

Last Meeting Minutes

Date: June 12, 2026

Time: 1900 hours

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

1. Call to Order & Opening

- Meeting called to order at 1900 hours.
- Club member introductions were conducted.
- New members / visitors: Keith, welcomed to his first club meeting; Matt, welcomed to his first club meeting.
- Silent Keys: A moment of silence was held for Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, who passed away after suffering a stroke.
 - Bob, KO4ZIK: Gary will be hard shoes to fill, as he was involved in a lot of different activities. Anyone able to help keep the things he loved going was asked to reach out.
 - Sean, K4KBK: Gary's nephews and Sean helped clean out Gary's apartment, with help from Tim O'Neil on some of the older and larger equipment. A Celebration of Life is being planned with all the Northern Virginia clubs at Columbia Island Marina. Sean will be reaching out to all the radio and running clubs Gary was involved with for planning purposes. Gary Nikki is providing photographs, and Bob recommended trying to reach Jerry at AARC for additional photos from their website.

2. Awards & Certificates

- Ian, N8IK – DXCC Trident.
- Sandy, KQ4DNE – Bronze Hunter.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- No corrections to the minutes from the last meeting were noted.
- Motion made to approve the minutes; motion seconded.
- Result: Minutes approved.

4. Recent Events

D-Day Commemoration Event – Jan, KB2LRX

- Jan, KB2LRX, Sean, K4KBK, and Stex, K4IEW were present at John Carlyle Square for the event.

- Good turnout, with approximately two dozen people stopping by to chat and talk radio.

5. Upcoming Events

- Summer Field Day – June 27th–28th. Further details covered later in the meeting.

6. Officer Reports

Board Report – Skip, KO2THF

- Nothing specific to report beyond items covered later in the meeting.

Secretary Report – Mike, KQ4WOI

- No corrections to the previous meeting minutes noted; minutes approved.

Treasurer Report – Richard, KW4UJ

- Profit & Loss for May: Net income of -\$26.39.
- Basic checking balance: \$1,145.23; outstanding checks: \$705.00; actual operable balance: \$439.89.
- Total in the bank: \$13,890.25.
- Emails were sent out recently for dues that are due.

7. Committee Reports

Membership – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- 3 new members since the last meeting.
- Sandy handed out W4HFH stickers to those at the meeting and will give extra stickers to Ted to sell for Ways and Means.

Public Information Officer – Jan, KB2LRX

- Submitted advertisements to local websites and coordinated with Jason to post Sandy's infographic on Facebook.
- As of 5:30 PM on 6/12/26, the ARRL locator did not yet have the club's location.
- Richard asked Jan to send him the graphic so he could post it to the website; Sandy sent it during the meeting.

ARES

- Joe K has resigned as ARES.

Repeater Status – Ian, N8IK

- All repeaters are functioning.
- Some hotspots will accidentally sign users up to XLF 097C instead of REF 097C. Anyone having issues should reach out to Ian, who will pass on the fix from the reflector admin.

Emergency Communications – Stex, K4IEW

- Not present; may have a presentation at the next meeting.

Training and Testing – Richard, KW4UJ

- Richard, and Jerry from AARC have taken over testing. The next exam session is at Manassas on June 20th.
- The next class will be in the fall; organizing will begin after Field Day.

Trailer – Sean, K4KBK

- Trailer is operational and ready for Field Day; propane tanks need to be filled before Field Day.

Webmaster – Richard, KW4UJ

- Will post the Field Day graphic on the website once received; Sandy sent it during the meeting.

Socials – Jason, WA6MPR

- Not present.

Net Control – Bryan, WD4ADF

- Members should look for an email to sign up to be Net Control in July.
- Joint special net with Mount Vernon on Monday, June 15th, K4US: 146.655 MHz, PL 141.3 Hz.

Summer Field Day

- June 27th–28th at Chinguapin Park, 3210 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302.
- Setup starts at 0900 Saturday; operating starts at 1400.
- Club members in attendance offered a few recommendations for the plan:
 - Bob, KO4ZIK, suggested moving the 40m SSB antenna further from 40m CW to cut down on interference.
 - Joe K, KD2HZG, mentioned a company that makes 40m Phone / 40m CW filters and will look for more details.
 - Need to confirm Joe P, KT3I, is bringing the generator.
 - Jason, WA6MPR, will bring his camper.
 - Keith, K2VG, would like to operate FT8.
 - Bob will be GOTA coach and would like to use the IC-7000.
 - Bob will be safety officer.

8. Old Business

- Club Merch is available at alexandriaarc.goldmedalideas.com.
- Larry, KQ4SBC, mentioned that polo shirts run slightly larger than the button-downs.

9. New Business

- None.

10. General Comments

- Hamvention was great; Bob gave a summary of his experience and also recommended Four Days in May (FDIM).
- Ian has gone to Hamvention multiple times (25 times) and strongly recommends going at least once.
- Ian mentioned that 6m propagation has been great lately.
- Joe K mentioned the MUF was above 200 MHz, and DX could be heard on 1.25m.

Ask an Elmer

- Craig is looking for support on the ID-51; Bob, KO4ZIK, will be reaching out.

11. Action Items

Responsible Party	Action Item
Sean, K4KBK / Club Members	Coordinate a Celebration of Life for Gary Sessums, KC5QCN at Columbia Island Marina; reach out to Northern Virginia radio and running clubs Gary was involved with.
Bob, KO4ZIK	Follow up with Craig, KO4EQZ, to provide support on the ID-51.
Joe, KD2HZG	Research and report back on the company that makes 40m Phone / 40m CW filters.
Jason, WA6MPR	Bring the trailer to Field Day.
Sean, K4KBK	Fill propane tanks on the trailer before Field Day.
Richard, KW4UJ	Post the Field Day graphic to the website once received.

12. Adjournment

- Motion to close the formal meeting at 8:13 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by: Mike Joyce, KQ4WOI

Email questions to secretary@w4hfh.org

Detailed Meeting Attendance

Recorded Attendance, June 12th, 2026 (18 in person, 5 remotely)

Mike, KQ4WOI	Sandy, KQ4DNE	Bryan, WD4ADF	Gary, KC7TNU	Skip, KO2THF
Richard, KW4UJ	Keith, K2VG	Jan, KB2LRX	Ian, N8IK	Tom, NH7XJ
Ted, W9TCE	Erik, KI4BXU	Sean, K4KBK	Bob, KO4ZIK	Matt, KR4LZW
Marnie, N9AWG	Joe, KD2HZG	Larry, KQ4SBC	Craig, KO4EQZ	Oleg, KZ4FY
Jay, KV3W	Andrew, KI4THF	Terry, K3TLA		

Club Leadership

Elected Officers for 2026 *

Aaron Kahn, K6HLC—President

William A. “Skip” Dronen, Jr., WD1W
—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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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