

Alexandria Radio Club

Monthly Club Meeting – Minutes

August 14, 2026

Community Room, Alexandria Police Headquarters, 3600 Wheeler Avenue

1. Call to Order & Opening

- Meeting called to order at 1900 hours.
- Club member introductions were conducted.
- New members / visitors: Ishmael, KE2EKQ welcomed, here for a college internship from RIT.

2. Awards & Certificates

- Stex, K4IEW – Golden Hunter, Parks on the Air.
- Bryan, WD4ADF – 15 Contacts, Arlington High Operator Award, VA QSO Party
- Bob, KO4ZIK – 13 Colonies Certificate

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

National Night Out – Sandy, Stex, Sean, Aaron

- Ice cream was delicious.
- Met the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.
- A few kids stopped by to spin the dial and play radio.
- One Scout mom asked the club to help with her son's troop.
- Mark, the Emergency Management Coordinator, also stopped by.

Citizens Corps Council – Sean, Skip, Aaron

- Sean invited Skip and Aaron to attend.
- The council was very impressed with the club's skill set and wants to utilize the club to help train radio usage for various volunteer activities.
- Most volunteer organizations currently use FRS; the club is encouraging a move to GMRS, or ideally toward getting a ham license so members can use repeaters.
- The club is hopeful this relationship will help open access to more city resources.

GMRS Discussion

- Bob asked if anyone had heard about a recent incident in Georgia involving illegally linked GMRS repeaters spanning the state; the FCC issued the operator a cease and desist for running the system without proper licensing.

5. Upcoming Events

- Tons of Trucks – September 26th, Chinquapin Park.
- Winter Field Day – January 23rd–24th. The club is looking for a location; the fire department is not an option this year since the club's contact there has retired.
- Sean raised the idea of Ivy Cemetery as a possible Winter Field Day location. Marnie expressed concern about being set up on gravestones; Sean agreed further discussion on antenna placement would be needed. Sean knows a board member there and noted the cemetery has a building that could serve as a conference room, so the location seems to have potential.
- Members are asked to bring forward other location ideas (churches, American Legion, etc.) to club leadership or the board; Sean is willing to chase down leads but is looking for club input.

6. Officer Reports

VP Report – Skip, WD1W

- Skip was on vacation in Puerto Rico and not present.

Secretary Report – Mike, KQ4WOI

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

Treasurer Report – Richard, KW4UJ

- Profit & Loss for July: Net loss of -\$2.80.
- Basic checking balance: \$2,411.70; outstanding checks: \$2,041.14; actual operable balance: \$370.56.
- Total in the bank: \$14,502.17.

7. Committee Reports

Membership – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- 1 new member: Allen, KA3ZQY.

Public Information Officer – Jan, KB2LRX

- The ARRL newsletter contest results are in; the club did not win among the 80 submissions across the large, medium, and small newsletter categories.
- Books previously donated to the library are now in circulation; Jan confirmed they are actively being checked out.
- Jan asked whether meeting minutes should go out separately rather than only appearing in the newsletter. Mike gave a quick overview of the minutes process: meeting audio is recorded and compared against notes taken during the meeting, the notes are then run through Claude for grammar and formatting consistency, proofread again, and sent to Jan.
- Club members in attendance agreed that minutes should go out earlier, with a second copy included in the newsletter. The target is to send minutes via the reflector within two weeks of the club meeting, with Jan continuing to include them in the newsletter.

Repeater Status – Ian, N8IK (reported by Sean)

- Ian was at a family event; Sean gave the update in his place.
- The club is hoping to secure a repeater site at the new hospital, pending resolution of helipad restrictions and other considerations.
- Sterret Carter, a retiree with 35 years of wireless communications experience, is assisting; the club also hopes to get Erik Parker to return and help.

- A volunteer is needed to help draft a command briefing so the club has a solid pitch for the hospital on why hosting the club's repeaters would be beneficial. Jan noted he has a fact sheet that could serve as a starting point.
- Bob asked what the plan would be if the hospital declines, and recommended highlighting the club's support for DC and Virginia during national security events. Bob also suggested the club could join the hospital's existing antenna farm, and that the presentation should highlight coverage deadzones and antenna transmission patterns to demonstrate the value of the investment.

Emergency Communications / ARES – Stex, K4IEW

- Stex has officially been appointed Emergency Coordinator for the City of Alexandria.
- Stex is working on a document illustrating the importance of ham radio for emergency communications.
- On 8/15, Stex will activate Jones Point Lighthouse under the club callsign W4HFH as part of International Lighthouse Lightships Weekend, starting at 8:00 AM in the large field south of the parking lot; interested members are welcome to join.
- On 9/11, there will be a special event station commemorating the 25th anniversary of 9/11; see the Pentagon website for specific times.

Training and Testing – Richard, KW4UJ

- A training class is a possibility for October; Richard needs to review with Ian to see if he can support it.
- Bob will be OCONUS for October and November, making it difficult to run a class with only two instructors. Sean offered to help.
- Richard will send out an invite to gauge instructor interest and will set up a session to review the curriculum.
- Testing sessions in partnership with Arlington have been going well.

Trailer – Sean, K4KBK

- Trailer is in good shape; Richard and Sean are looking into mounting a TV screen in the trailer.

Webmaster – Richard, KW4UJ

- No update.

Socials – Jason, WA6MPR

- Mike thanked Stex and Sandy for sending in photos for socials. Members are encouraged to continue uploading photos of their radio activities to Discord so Mike can post them to Instagram.

Net Control – Bryan, WD4ADF

- Mike will take over the net control schedule while Bryan is OCONUS.
- The special 70cm net had 9 participants; thanks to all who joined.
- The next special net will be a joint special net with Mount Vernon.
- Depending on interest, additional special nets may be planned for October.

Nominating Committee – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- Preparing for elections in November.
- Since Gary's passing, Sandy is looking for someone to help run elections; interested members should reach out to Sandy at askenyon4@gmail.com or membership@w4hfh.org.

8. Old Business

- Club Merch is available at alexandriarc.goldmedalideas.com.
- Don asked for an update on 501(c)(3) status. Aaron reported multiple inquiries to “Liz” with no response by email or phone. An alternate CPA has been identified to review the documents, and the club is considering moving forward with them. Revised Articles and Bylaws have been drafted; the board is awaiting feedback and approval before submitting them to the club for review and a final vote.
- Don asked whether the current proposed Articles and Bylaws could be submitted to the club for review now rather than waiting for CPA feedback; Aaron noted the request.

9. New Business

- Motion to move the September 11th meeting to September 18th; motion seconded; vote taken; motion approved.
- Proposal to start an HF equipment loaner program for members who are recent Generals. Sean noted this could help with storage issues and asked whether the club would loan full kits versus partial kits. Aaron has 3 kits missing only antennas and offered to build dipoles for them. Don raised the need for a formal sign-out process, a clear policy, and a transparent inventory of who has what equipment and when it is due back.
- Motion to move forward with the loaner program and develop a process; motion seconded; vote taken; motion approved.
- Preview for next month: a special presentation on the Marine Corps Marathon. The Marine Corps Marathon needs volunteers for October 25th, including an 8K on Saturday.

10. General Comments

- Sean shared plans for Gary Sessums' Celebration of Life at Columbia Island Marina, with invitations extended to all NOVA radio clubs, the Fairlington social club, and the Shirlington running club. Sean will solicit the group whether we should have full meals versus heavy snacks. He has reviewed catering pricing from Columbia Island Marina, noting the marina is very busy from 11:00 AM on. The group is looking at a 12:00–4:00 PM window on a Sunday (adjusted from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM since many attendees will be at church until noon), with food served around 1:30 PM. Sean noted the earliest available Sunday would be in early September.
- Scott recently reached out to Rapid Radio for information; he has an appointment with the FCC to discuss how they are operating without licenses.

Calendar

- Quick review of the calendar, which can be found on the website.

Ask an Elmer

- Mike asked whether operating from a different location (a parent's or in-law's backyard, etc.) requires modifying one's call sign to indicate the different state. General consensus was to simply use a separate log, with no need to modify the call sign.

11. Action Items

Responsible Party	Action Item
Sean, K4KBK / Club Members	Continue planning Gary Sessums' Celebration of Life at Columbia Island Marina; confirm date (targeting a Sunday in early September) and catering plan.
Jan, KB2LRX	Share the existing fact sheet as a starting point for the hospital repeater site pitch.
Volunteer Needed	Draft a command briefing outlining the value of a repeater site to the hospital, including deadzone coverage, antenna patterns, and support for DC/Virginia national security events.
Richard, KW4UJ	Send an invite to gauge interest in serving as an instructor for the possible upcoming training class, and set up a curriculum review session.
Aaron, K6HLC / Board	Continue pursuing 501(c)(3) status; follow up with the alternate CPA and finalize revised Articles and Bylaws before submitting to the club for review and vote.
Board	Develop a formal sign-out policy and inventory process for the new HF equipment loaner program.
Sandy, KQ4DNE	Recruit a volunteer to assist with the Nominating Committee ahead of November elections.
Mike, KQ4WOI	Cover the Net Control schedule while Bryan, WD4ADF, is OCONUS.
Mike, KQ4WOI	Begin distributing meeting minutes via the reflector within two weeks of each meeting, ahead of newsletter publication.

12. Adjournment

- Motion to close the formal meeting at 8:16 PM. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by: Mike Joyce, KQ4WOI

Email questions to secretary@w4hfh.org

Detailed Meeting Attendance

Recorded Attendance, August 14th, 2026 (17 in person, 1 remotely)

Mike, KQ4WOI	Sandy, KQ4DNE	Ted, W9TCE	Mait, AA4HS	Don, KI4D
Aaron, K6HLC	Stex, K4IEW	Sterrett, K4MBE	Scott, W6GOU	
Jan, KB2LRX	Bob, KO4ZIK	Bryan, WD4ADF		
Sean, K4KBK	Marnie, N9AWG	Louis, KO4QVB		
Richard, KW4UJ	Gary, KC7TNU	Ishmael, KE2EKQ		