



ARC-SHORTS

The Newsletter of the Alexandria Radio Club
October 2026

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



Stex, W4IEW, shows off radio to a budding ham at Tons of Trucks. Story below.

President's Corner

Aaron Kahn (K6HLC)

First, I would like to thank all those who came out in support of the **Tons of Trucks** event in Alexandria on September 26. We had quite a demonstration of different radios to show. There were also a fair number of people who came and talked with club members asking about amateur radio and how to get licensed. It was a fun time and I think everyone enjoyed it.

With regards to additional volunteer events, the **Marine Corps Marathon** is still looking for volunteer operators to help. I signed up for the Saturday event, and I am looking forward to helping for the first time. I encourage you if you have not helped out using your hobby to assist the community to do so.

Finally, with winter approaching I would love to hear what indoor projects you all are planning on building, trying, or programming. If you have some cool thing you are working on and would like to share, please let us know. Space can be provided for you to share your latest project with the group.

Till next time, Aaron (K6HLC)

Member News

Club Elections Coming at November Meeting

The Nominations Committee (**Sandy Kenyon, KQ4DN**, and **Stex Fonda, W4IEW**) are requesting nominations for the upcoming W4HFH club elections. Nominations are needed for all officer positions and two board of directors positions. Please send your nominations to Sandy at askenyon4@gmail.com, and Stex at stex.fonda@gmail.com.

Offices to be filled

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Two Board Members (Directors)

Per our By-Laws, the election of officers to serve for the following calendar year occurs at the November meeting. The By-Laws require that all four officers be licensed amateurs and that the President be licensed for at least two years prior to taking office. We also ask for nominations from the floor at the November meeting. We will have the vote at the November 13th meeting, 7pm.

Activities and Events

ARC Brings Ham Radio to Tons of Trucks

The ARC trailer was one of the many vehicles featured at Alexandria's annual Tons of Trucks exhibit on September 26 in Chinquapin Park. Club members demonstrated equipment and described ham radio to some of the thousands of visitors.

Several families dropped by, with kids eager to see our rigs. Two people said they owned ham radios but didn't have a license. So, of course, we encouraged them to listen to our nets and join our licensing class.

Tons of Trucks features City vehicles such as fire trucks and school buses, as well as displays by civic groups. To highlight our involvement with emergency preparations, we were parked with the Alexandria Office of Emergency Management and with other volunteer support groups, including the American Red Cross, Volunteer Alexandria, the Medical Reserve Corps (VA Dept of Health) and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).



From left: Jan Maas, KB2LRX, Skip Dronen, WD1W, Stex Fonda, W4IEW. Richard Morani, KW4UJ, Aaron Kahn, K6HLC, and Sandy, KQ4DNE. Not pictured are Joe Kalfa, KD2HGC, and Aaron's son Stanley.



Above: Sandy, KQ4DNE, talks with Saroja Schwager, the City's Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, as Marc Barbieri, EM Coordinator adjusts equipment. Right: Sandy greets a family at our table.





Ham Operators Wanted for Marine Corps Marathon

The Marine Corps Marathon, to be run on Sunday, October 25, needs ham radio operators “to act as a vital ‘911’ communications service for race officials, medical personnel, and logistics teams by delivering reliable real-time voice communications when rapid coordination matters most.” ARC members have enthusiastically supported this event in past years and can still join the team by going to <https://mcmaro.com/>, the new, improved web site for ham volunteers.

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)

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

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

Contests/QSO Parties:

- **Oct. 10-11, 1500Z-0500Z. Arizona QSO Party.** <https://www.azqp.org/>
- **Oct. 10, 1600Z-0400Z, Oct. 11, 1200Z-2200Z. Pennsylvania QSO Party.** <https://paqso.org/>
- **Oct. 10, 1800Z-Oct. 11, 1800Z. South Dakota QSO Party.** <https://pdarc.org/sd-qso-party>
- **Oct. 17, 1400Z-Oct. 18, 0200Z. New York QSO Party.** <https://nyqp.org/wordpress/>
- **Oct. 18, 1700Z-Oct. 19, 0100Z. Illinois QSO Party.** <https://w9awe.org/ilqp/>

(Selected from ARRL Contests Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>)

Special Events:

- **Oct. 10-11. United States Navy Birthday (10/13/1775). 1700Z-2359Z, NI6IW.** San Diego, CA. USS Midway Museum Ship. <https://www.qrz.com/db/NI6IW>
 - **Oct. 17. Yorktown Special Event. 1400Z-2000Z, K4RC.** Williamsburg, VA, Amateur Radio Club. <https://www.k4rc.net>
 - **Nov. 11. Veteran's Day, National D-Day Memorial. 1430-1900Z, W2B.** Christiansburg, VA. New River Valley Amateur Radio Club.
- (Selected from ARRL Special Events Calendar <https://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>)

Next Meeting

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

Last Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 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: Hannah, welcomed to her first club meeting.

Pre-Meeting Presentation:

- Scott Larimer, KN4RPA, delivered a presentation on Marine Corps Marathon support.
- It takes about 150 hams to fully staff the race; members who are able are asked to sign up at mcmaro.com.
- The volunteer portal closes at the end of September / beginning of October.

2. Awards & Certificates

- Stex, K4IEW – Diamond Hunter via POTA.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- One correction noted: spelling of “Allen” corrected to “Alan,” KA3ZQY.
- Motion made to approve the minutes as amended; motion seconded.
- Result: Amended minutes approved.

4. Recent Events

September 11th Pentagon Event

- Stex, K4IEW: 12 hours of operation with about 10 operators, 700 QSOs, including several local members and international contacts.
- Participants shared experiences from 9/11. The group also received a visit from the Pentagon’s Chief Information Officer, who spent about 30 minutes with the group and was actively involved; Stex briefed the CIO.
- Sean, K4KBK: A very touching event. The Pentagon visitors seemed interested, and some hope to get their license.
- A special QSO card is available for those who made a contact.
- Jan, KB2LRX, asked whether a photo was taken. Sean was able to have photos taken by the CIO’s staff; they must go through the release process.

5. Upcoming Events

- Tons of Trucks – September 26th, Chinquapin Park.
 - Arrive by 0900 if you are going to help support the event.
 - Skip will bring the trailer. Email Skip if interested in supporting.
 - About 7,000 visitors are expected.
- Winter Field Day – January 23rd–24th.
 - Looking for location ideas.
 - Getting Station 210 is a long shot. Joe P is working on something and may have more information at the next meeting.

6. Officer Reports

Vice President Report – Skip, WD1W

- Unable to attend.

Secretary Report – Mike, KQ4WOI

- Correction to the previous meeting minutes: spelling of “Allen” to “Alan,” KA3ZQY.
- Motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded. Amended minutes approved.

Treasurer Report – Richard, KW4UJ

- Profit & Loss for August: \$91.76.
- Basic checking balance: \$2,292.29; outstanding checks: \$1,972.14; actual operable balance: \$320.15.
- Total in the bank: \$14,090.02.

7. Committee Reports

Membership – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- 1 new member: KC3EGG. (Sandy said KC3EEG at the meeting, but club records show the recent member as KC3EGG.)

Public Information Officer – Jan, KB2LRX

- Nothing new to report. Please come support Tons of Trucks, a great event for families with younger kids.

Repeater Status – Ian, N8IK

- All repeaters are up and running.
- Ian visited Inova Alexandria Hospital and spoke with the Security Staff Manager. The D-STAR repeater is at the hospital; relocation will be needed in 2028.
- The Emergency Manager, who floats between multiple locations, was not onsite. Ian is getting contact information from hospital security staff.
- An old security radio in an elevator shaft would be a perfect GMRS repeater location. Use needs approval from the Emergency Manager.
- Aaron, K6HLC, relayed a question from members: those interested in helping relocate the repeater should contact Ian. A group is being set up.

Emergency Communications / ARES – Stex, K4IEW

- Stex is very busy with work and is working to recover.

Training and Testing – Richard, KW4UJ

- The club currently has only 2 instructors, so the fall class is canceled. A Spring class will start in March 2027.
- More instructors are needed; the goal is 2 or 3 more to spread the workload. Ian handles chapter 3; Richard usually handles chapters 2 and 5.
- The class covers 1 chapter per week via Zoom, about 2 hours total (1.5 to 1.75 hours of instruction and 15 to 20 minutes for questions). All slides are already created.
- Also looking for Extra class operators who are VEs; sign up with Richard.

Trailer – Sean, K4KBK

- Getting the trailer ready for Tons of Trucks. Skip will be the primary contact for the trailer at the event.
- Volunteers are needed at Tons of Trucks.

Webmaster – Richard, KW4UJ

- When things quiet down, Richard wants to revamp the website, most likely over the winter.

Socials – Jason, WA6MPR

- Unable to attend.

Net Control – Bryan, WD4ADF

- Thanks to the club secretary for covering net scheduling while Bryan was out of the country.
- Members are asked to sign up to be Net Control.
- Bryan is looking to hold 1 or 2 special nets, most likely a 220 MHz net on a Monday and an HF net on a Saturday.

Nominating Committee – Sandy, KQ4DNE

- Looking for an assistant due to Gary's passing. The role is not labor intensive (mostly email) and includes leading the vote during elections, as long as the person is not running for office.
- Aaron, K6HLC, announced he will be stepping down and will not run for re-election as President.

8. Old Business

- Club Merch is available at alexandriaarc.goldmedalideas.com.
- 501(c)(3): Still waiting to hear back on the documents, which have been sent to another individual for review. Contact has finally been made with Liz, and an answer is expected in about a week.
- Don expressed thanks for the update on the 501(c)(3) status.

9. New Business

- JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) in October: Jan asked whether anyone is organizing an event with Gary's passing.
 - Sean is meeting with someone on Tuesday.
 - Bjorn noted that Mike Aimone is running it for the Vienna club and it may be larger than just Vienna.

10. General Comments

- Stex tried to participate in the Colorado QSO Party. His antenna was perfectly aimed, but Europe was behind him. He logged 1 Colorado, 1 New Jersey, and 1 Iowa, then turned the antenna and worked a lot of Europe, all with 80 W.
- Many QSO parties and POTA parties are coming up (9/19). Aaron noted that QSO parties are a great way to work toward all 50 states.
- Don: A new tool called Project Mercury, a free version of VARA HF, is available. He asked whether the club wants a presentation and will arrange one if there is interest; there seemed to be general interest.
- Demaris: Around 5:30 PM today, activated Martin Luther King Jr. memorial on 20m with 20 W and made 2 contacts with Spain.
- Stex also reached Skip in Iowa on 20 W, occasionally on voice.

Calendar

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

Ask an Elmer

- Larry, KQ4SBC, asked what could cause Bluetooth interference; he is having issues with a computer mouse and has tried everything. Club members offered a number of suggestions for him to investigate.

11. Action Items

Responsible Party	Action Item
All Members	Sign up to volunteer for Marine Corps Marathon support at mcmaro.com ; 150 hams are needed and the volunteer portal closes at the end of September / beginning of October.
Skip, WD1W / Members	Email Skip to help support Tons of Trucks (9/26, Chinquapin Park; arrive by 0900). Skip will bring the trailer.
Sean, K4KBK	Obtain photos of the September 11th Pentagon event through the CIO's staff release process.
Joe P, KT3I	Report back on possible use of Station 210 for Winter Field Day (January 23–24).

All Members	Send location ideas for Winter Field Day (January 23–24).
Ian, N8IK	Obtain contact information from hospital security staff; follow up with the Emergency Manager on the GMRS repeater location; set up a group to plan the D-STAR repeater relocation.
Members interested	Contact Ian to help with the repeater relocation effort.
Richard, KW4UJ	Recruit 2 or 3 additional instructors for the Spring class (starting March 2027); sign up Extra class VEs.
Richard, KW4UJ	Revamp the club website over the winter, once things quiet down.
Bryan, WD4ADF	Plan 1 or 2 special nets (a 220 MHz net on a Monday and an HF net on a Saturday); members asked to sign up for Net Control.
Sandy, KQ4DNE	Find an assistant for the Nominating Committee.
Sean, K4KBK	Follow up on JOTA (October) organization after meeting with a contact on Tuesday.
Don, KI4D	Reach out about a club presentation on Project Mercury (free VARA HF alternative).

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, September 18th, 2026 (19 in person, **I remotely**)*

Mike, KQ4WOI	Sandy, KQ4DNE	Ted, W9TCE	Bjorn, KC3AOO	Don, KI4D
Aaron, K6HLC	Stex, K4IEW	Ian, N8IK	Larry, KQ4SBC	Jan, KB2LRX
Louis, KO4QVB	Erik, KG4DZA	Terry, K3TLA	Sean, K4KBK	Hannah, no call (yet)
Sterrett, K4MBE	Bryan, WD4ADF	Richard, KW4UJ	Demaris, KD3DFL	Will, KE6FNQ

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

Committee Chairmen

Public Information Officer (PIO)—Jan
Maas, KB2LRX

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.

ARES & EmComm Division—Stefano
“Stex” Fonda, W4IEW

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