



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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JULY 2012

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, July 13, 2012, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

**PROGRAM: Grounding for Amateur Radio Stations is the topic for the July program. Joe Palsa, K3WRY, will lead us through this sometimes controversial and misunderstood subject.**

## Coming Events:

**VE Testing Session**, July 14, 9:00 AM  
**August Club Meeting**, August 10, 7:00 PM

## Club Members!

If you are not receiving your copy of the Club's monthly newsletter, please contact Richard, WA4FEH, RARC's Treasurer, at [wa4feh@gmail.com](mailto:wa4feh@gmail.com) or phone 743-3899.

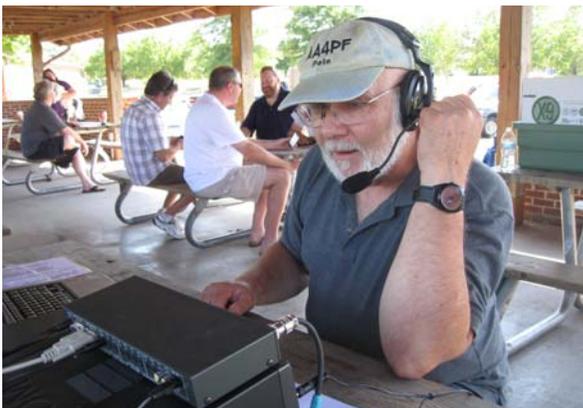
## Getting to know this month's speaker

Joe Palsa, K3WRY, has quite a diverse background from police officer to Ph.D. For a number of years Joe worked in power and UPS systems for manufacturers who dealt primarily with government customers, including the military. The military work took him all over the world including time spent on Navy ships. Joe has numerous professional and ham affiliations and accomplishments. Of particular note, he is the EC for Chesterfield County and the State government liaison for the Virginia Section of ARRL.

While many of us claim to have a "bench" with a few tools, Joe has a "lab" that looks like the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and some of his test gear is traceable to NIST calibration standards. His ham shack is equally impressive.

Please join us on Friday, July 13, when Joe will present a program on Grounding for Amateur Radio Stations.

## The Greater Richmond 2012 Field Day



See Field Day 2012 story and more photos on page 4.

## From the Prez

This month marks the end of one era and the beginning of a new one. As most of us know, Ron and Barbara Chase have served as editors of the RARC newsletter for a number of years. They took this on as a temporary assignment over five years ago. Like so many other duties in the Club, we tend to try to keep people in assignments who serve the Club well, and they have certainly done that. Our newsletter is an excellent communication tool for the Club. It does not just happen. Ron and Barbara make it happen every month. And describing them as "editors" really does not account for the many additional duties they perform to get the newsletter out every month. The newsletter has grown in size and sophistication under their able leadership.

You may not know that producing the newsletter is but one of many responsibilities Ron and Barbara have performed for the Club over the past 11 years. Ron had only been a member for a year when he was elected vice president. He has served as a director of the Club multiple times over the years including at the present time. Barbara previously served as Club secretary, and they have both served as coordinators of the radio school, as volunteer examiners and on the Club history committee which did a wonderful job of compiling and preserving the materials which document our early years.

I got to know Ron when he was head of the Technical Committee and I offered to help with the D-STAR repeater. I began to get a sense that heading up the Technical Committee was just one of Ron's many responsibilities, and that proved to be true for both Ron and Barbara. There's not enough space for me to recite the many events that were successful because of Ron and Barbara's tireless contributions to the Club. While some of us probably assume that things just happen, let me assure you that they don't. The reason you had refreshments at many Club meetings was because Barbara took care of it. The reason our yard sales and silent auctions were successful was because people like Ron and Barbara showed up to help organize those events.

The era that is ending is that Ron and Barbara have asked to hand off the five year temporary assignment as newsletter editors, and this will be their last edition as editors. I'm happy to announce that Armand Hamel, WA1UQO, has accepted the call of duty to take on the newsletter editor responsibilities.

When you see Ron and Barbara, please thank them for their years of faithful service to the Club in so many capacities. Also, please thank Armand for agreeing to take on this important assignment for the Club.

73, Win

## Highlights of the June Board Meeting

The RARC Board of Directors met on June 12, 2012. The Board adopted a resolution affirming the founding of the Club as April 1916 based on the research which was compiled by Art Williams, Pip Sager and Ron and Barbara Chase. This information had been made available to the membership for some months in the newsletter, on the website and in paper handouts. The Board voted unanimously to correct our founding date consistent with the documentary material that was presented.

If you are willing to serve on the committee to plan the Club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, please contact Win Grant.

The Board approved purchasing a new controller for the D-STAR repeaters. The original controller developed a problem about a year ago. While it is still functioning as a result of a work around, the plan is to get it repaired and have on hand as a backup.

Member, Grayle Hundley, KF4USV, has offered to coordinate members providing transportation to other members who need assistance getting to Club meetings. This is an excellent opportunity to assist fellow members with something we will all probably need eventually. If you need transportation to Club meetings or are willing to assist others in your area with transportation, please contact Grayle at 730-0455.

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### D-STAR Note

Our digital repeater usage continues to grow as more members acquire D-STAR radios and install D-STAR hotspots. In addition to our regular Wednesday night net on the VHF D-STAR repeater, we link that repeater to Reflector 025C at 9:00 PM on Wednesdays for the National Capital Region D-STAR net. On Sunday nights at 9:00 PM, we link the UHF repeater to Reflector 002A for the Southeast D-STAR Weather Net. Information on gateway registration and linking is on the Club website at <http://rarclub.net/repeaters/D-STAR/> or contact Jim, KJ4WLH or Win, WA4SSG, for assistance.

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### RARC VE News

We had an extra test session at Field Day! Administered 4 tests and got 1 new Tech, Dana KK4KGM. Congrats. Next year we discussed really making a media hit for Field Day, study, come out and Get on the Air and take your test!

**Note:** The new Extra question pool became effective July 1, 2012, so be sure to study the correct questions for your Extra upgrade.

Our next VE testing session will be **Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM**, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

If you have questions about a session, please see our website, [www.rarclub.net/](http://www.rarclub.net/) or contact Allan, WA3J, at 804-399-8724, or wa3j@arrl.net.

## June Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 8, 2012

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM Called to order at 7:10 PM

Presiding Officers: Win Grant, WA4SSG, President, Pete Fundinger, AA4PF, Vice-President, Richard Arnold, WA4FEH, Treasurer, and Patricia Johnson, N8WEA, Secretary

The President called the meeting to order and welcomed all including several visitors. Congratulations to members who had **upgraded** recently: David Robinson, KJ4LHP, *Extra*, Richard Hatch, KK4JNP, *Tech*, John Lowe, KK4JNR, *General*, James Parker, KK4JNR, *General*, Duane Brankley, KK4JNN, *Tech*, Douglas Bronnenberg, KJ4VFL, *Extra*, Rene Collier, KK4JNO, *Tech*. James Davis, KJ4IXZ, *Extra*, Keith Dingwall, KK4BHH, *Extra*, and Robert Threatt, KK4JNK, *Tech*.

### Old Business:

The May minutes were approved and motioned to accept.

The May Treasurer's report was provided by the Treasurer, Richard Arnold, WA4FEH.

Richard reported that the Yard Sale was very successful again this year.

He also announced that there were several applications for membership this month which included: Gene Toler, KG4WGS, Barry Mapp, K4RUE, James "Al" Parker, KK4JNR, and Duane Brankley, KK4JNN.

Allan Johnson, WA3J, also reported that the class this year and testing sessions were very successful. There were over 45 tests administered in the month of May. He would like to know if there is interest in a June testing session before the new question pool begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. The possibility of a testing session to be set up at the field day event was suggested. Please contact Allan if interested.

### New business:

- Win Grant, WA4SSG, reminded everyone that field day would be coming in two weeks. Please remember to come out and enjoy the event. Joe Palsa, K3WRY, also encouraged everyone to take part in the event at Laurel Park on June 23 & 24.
- Reminder that the month of June is the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Radio Run. All were encouraged to be more active on any band, frequency or mode. Have fun and let Jim Bates, KJ4WLH, know how you are doing. ☺
- Win also reported that the D-STAR repeater is working well and that lots of visitors are also using the repeater as they pass through the area.
- Tom Flippin, KD4CMK, reminded members of all the nets that are active throughout the week. Please check the listings on the web page or newsletter. He urged everyone to participate.

- Win reported that there will be a Board meeting on June 12. If anyone has any questions, concerns or information, please inform one of the Board members.

There was no further business, so the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM. The program followed with guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Kemmler with the Virginia State Police Department. He gave a very informative presentation on the STARS radio system. Following the presentation, members joined the speaker in the parking lot for "show and tell" of the state police vehicle. All enjoyed the evening. ☺

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Johnson, N8WEA

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## Public Service

### Hams provide communications at Special Olympics

The Virginia Special Olympics is a big deal. So is the communications hams provide during the two days. Held every June at the University of Richmond and the pool at St. Catherine's School, it is a rare chance for children and young adults with all kinds of disabilities to become athletic stars. They are treated as athletes and they love the opportunity. The Richmond Times-Dispatch has a photo album of the 2012 games at <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/list/gallery-special-olympics-virginia-summer-games/gallery/>.

The job is of the ham volunteers is keeping the large group of leaders up to date with what is happening and where. Upwards of 20 hams sign up, some for Friday, some for Saturday and some for both. Each ham is assigned to a site like the medical tent to shadow a leader like the head of the Olympics or to a venue like weight lifting.

It is a controlled network. Network Control tracks who is where, keeps records of major traffic and generally keeps the chaos away.

Joe Landers, KE4EUE, does most of the hard work of organizing it, getting volunteers, and connecting the Olympic officials. RARC was well represented by members. We kept the communications going and cheered those great athletes.

- Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

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## Remote Operations

We hope you enjoyed reading Jim's series on remote operation. He provided lots of useful information on setting up and remotely accessing your station. If you missed it, the series started with the April 2012 issue and concluded in the June issue. Jim is very willing to answer any questions you might have on the subject. Drop him a line at [jl Bates4@gmail.com](mailto:jl Bates4@gmail.com).

## Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) 1st Annual June "Radio Run"

If you have made at least 1 (one) contact on each and every day of the month of June, please contact Jim Bates with the following information:

- Call Sign (required)
- Name (optional)
- E-Mail Address and/or Telephone Number (optional)
- If you kept track of your contacts, the # of contacts you made during the month of June, 2012 (optional)

AND

It would be great if you'd fill out our online survey too!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NWCXZPK>

If you have questions, comments, or concerns please contact Jim Bates.

Contact Information (e-mail is preferred):

Jim Bates, KJ4WLH, (804) 592-1068,  
[jl Bates4@gmail.com](mailto:jl Bates4@gmail.com).

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## Club Info...

- RARC meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.
- We offer 10-week license prep classes in September and March with exams following.
- Members provide VE testing sessions on odd-months during the year.

**FCC EXAMS EVERY MONTH on the SECOND SATURDAY.** For January and all odd-numbered months: Bon Air United Methodist Church, 9 AM. Call coordinator, Allan Johnson, WA3J, 399-8724, or visit <http://www.rarclub.net/>.

For February and all even-numbered months, FCC test sessions are provided by the RAVE group. Coordinator, Pat Wilson, W4PW (932-9424) has information on his website <http://w4pw.org>.

RARC has the first D-STAR digital repeater in the area. 147.255 (+) and 443.7125 (+). We now have the gateway tied into the worldwide D-STAR network.

The Club sponsors several radio nets each week. Join in for the informative discussions and fun.

Sunday	7:00 PM	50.135	USB
	7:30 PM	52.525	FM
Wednesday	7:00 PM	28.475	USB
	8:00 PM	147.255	D-STAR Repeater
	8:15 PM	145.730	Packet

- Join the Richmond Amateur Radio Club. You don't have to have a ham license, just have a genuine interest in the hobby.

Annual Dues are:

80 and over	\$0
Age 12 and under	\$5.00
Age 13 to 18	\$10.00
Regular Membership	\$15.00

- Lots of information about the Club and our activities is available on our website, [www.rarclub.net](http://www.rarclub.net).

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### Field Day 2012

For the second year the Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) and the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society (RATS) teamed up for Field Day, and once again we had a very successful event. It was held at the Laurel Park Recreation area in Henrico County. The site has a shelter with picnic tables, convenient facilities, and many tall poles that work well for us to hang antennas. This year the soccer field in front of the shelter was closed for resodding, so we didn't have access to all the poles. Last year we put up two 160 meter loops. This year we scaled the antennas back a bit, but still had four operating positions. We had two HF stations, a GOTA station and a VHF station - all running on generator power. This put our Field Day in the 2A category.

We showed up on site around 10 AM Saturday morning and started hanging antennas by 11:00. The antennas, radios and generator were set up well before the 2:00 PM start time. Set up in the morning went very well. The light poles for the sports fields make it easy for us!

The VHF station consisted of an Icom 746 with a 2 meter Yagi and a 6 meter Squalo (a square loop). One HF station was another Icom 746 with a 80 meter Zepp. The other HF station was a Yasaeu FT-897 feeding a 80 meter Carolina Windom. The GOTA station had an Icom 718 and a 40 meter vertical delta loop. All of the stations were using computer logging with N1MM logging software.

Attendance was great this year - we had more visitors than any Field Day in recent memory. Fifty people signed the visitor log and a steady stream of people came to check us out. Many people operated and some just came to hang out and chat. Burgers and hot dogs were cooked on the grill late afternoon Saturday. Something new this year was a VE testing session. Since the Extra question pool was changing on July 1, the VE team decided it would be a good time to give some local hams another opportunity to take the test.

Operation went into the overnight hours and lasted until about 1:00 PM Sunday afternoon. 373 contacts were made for a total of 782 points. QSOs were made on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters. Propagation on 6 meters was not nearly as good as last year (when we made 99 QSOs), but we still managed to get a few contacts there.

When we wrapped up on Sunday afternoon, everyone was tired but we were all looking forward to doing it again next year!

73, Robert Orndorff, W4BNO





Photos supplied by WA4FEH, WA4VUO, WA1UQO, KD4CMK, and KD4XA

### The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1uqo@arrl.net](mailto:wa1uqo@arrl.net). The Swap Shop is presented in the newsletter as a benefit to our members. RARC takes no responsibility for items sold or traded in this newsletter. The ad will appear three times unless extended. Interested parties will contact you directly. **You must be an RARC member to place an ad.**

**For Sale:** Icom IC 7600 HF transceiver. Mint condition. Original owner. Factory boxes. All original accessories and manual. Will include LDG M 7600 external analog meter. \$3,000. Win Grant, WA4SSG, 301-8847.

**For Sale:** Kenwood TK-981 FM transceivers for 900 MHz, used in good condition, bench checked, 15 watt, preprogrammed for local and national simplex and repeater frequencies. Includes microphone, power cord and mounting bracket. These are being made available at cost to promote local activity, price \$125. Get yours now and join us on simplex or the soon-to-be announced repeater. Also available, 30 watt capable transceivers for \$145, trade-ins taken. Contact Dave Meier, N4MW, [n4mw@msn.com](mailto:n4mw@msn.com)

**Wanted:** I am looking for three back issues of Electric Radio magazine. The December 2001 through February 2002 issues. Volumes 51 through 53. Would like to borrow them if possible for a short time. Armand, [wa1uqo@arrl.net](mailto:wa1uqo@arrl.net), or (804) 454-0564.

### Thought for the Day

*Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.*

73 de:

Win Grant	WA4SSG	PRESIDENT	(804) 272-9695	<a href="mailto:wa4ssg(at)arrl.net">wa4ssg(at)arrl.net</a>
Pete Fundinger	AA4PF	VICE-PRESIDENT	(804) 639-5573	<a href="mailto:aa4pf(at)verizon.net">aa4pf(at)verizon.net</a>
Patricia Johnson	N8WEA	SECRETARY		
Richard Arnold	WA4FEH	TREASURER		