



THE RICHMOND HAM

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OCTOBER 2012

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, October 12, 2012, **7:00 PM**, at the **Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.**

Coming Events:

October Club Meeting, Oct 12, 7:00 PM
The Diabetes Foundation walk, Step Out to Fight Diabetes is scheduled for Saturday October 13 at Saint Mary's Hospital.

Boy Scouts of America - Jamboree on the Air, (JOTA), Oct 20th, 8AM-5PM.

Annual RARC Banquet Nov 9th at Nick's Roman Terrace. Bob Eshleman W4DR will be the guest speaker!

10/20/2012 US Coast Guard Auxiliary 73rd Anniversary

Oct 20, 1400Z-2300Z, W4Z, Virginia Beach, VA. USCG Auxiliary. 14.309 14.070 7.209. QSL. Robert W. Dunnington, KI4VCT, 1200 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

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 or phone 743-3899.

Getting to know this month's speaker

This month's speaker will be Robert Orndorff. Robert will give a presentation called "Solar Numbers and Amateur Radio". This will cover what the solar numbers (SFI, K index, A index, etc) mean. Information on solar flares, CMEs and other solar information will also be presented. The presentation will also cover the data reported in the WWV solar reports. The intent is to give the audience a better understanding of how the sun affects ham radio propagation.

A short Bio from Robert:

I became a ham in 2001, and quickly got my General and Extra after attending a Field Day event. I have been moderately active since I got licensed. I am a casual DXer and I play in a few contests throughout the year. I really enjoy the technical side of the hobby. I enjoy building and modeling antennas and using

amateur radio as a way to learn. I have built a few kits, like the Elecraft K1 and a HW-8 many years ago. Setting up a portable QRP station and making a few contacts is a lot of fun for me as well.

I have worked at Dominion since 1984. I started in the warehouse while going to school, and then became a field relay technician. I had that job for 11 years and I have worked in the Transmission Fault Analysis department since 1997. I am a IEEE member and also on the Board at RATS. Some other hobbies include programming, electronics, photography, and occasionally playing the piano.

From The Prez

These are exciting times for ham operators. When it seems like every piece of radio gear that will ever exist has already been invented and manufacturers seem to be even slower to update their products, new products continue to appear. And in one case to disappear.

At the August Tokyo Ham Fair, Icom introduced two new products. The IC 7100 might ultimately earn the title of best all around mobile/portable/base rig for HF, VHF and UHF. It's a major update to the very popular IC 7000, but the 7100 has a detachable touch screen interface which may be a first for any ham radio. It also has built in D Star capability. Rumored price is around \$1,800, and dealers are "selling" pre-orders. For around \$20, some vendors will sell you a reservation to get one of the first units when it is eventually offered for sale.

Icom also announced the ID-51A handie talkie, a dual band, dual receiver HT with FM and D Star capability, built in GPS, 1300 memory channels and even an AM/FM broadcast receiver. What makes this radio pretty special is that it comes preloaded with the U.S. D Star frequency and repeater information pre-programmed on an SD card. The GPS receiver tells the radio your location, and it will show the 20 closest D Star repeaters as loaded on the SD card. Both of these Icom products have voice synthesizers that announce frequency and mode information.

And Yaesu recently decided to cancel a product before it was ever offered for sale. After some very enticing advertising, the VL

2000, solid state, full legal limit HF amplifier was discontinued before the first one was ever sold. Too bad, because the specs were very impressive. One rumor is that Yaesu could not build the amplifier for a price that most hams could afford.

It's heartening to see that manufacturers still believe there is a market for amateur radio gear, and the innovation continues. I have no financial stake in any of these products. In fact, quite the opposite is true. I only stand to lose money when new products are released if you know what I mean.

Even the finest equipment cannot overcome the limitations of propagation, and conversely, even the simplest gear can produce great contacts when conditions permit. Our speaker this month will explain how mother nature is really in charge of all of this.

73 Win

D-Star Update

We recently installed a power amplifier on the UHF D Star repeater. Power out of the repeater was about 22 watts, and the amplifier produces around 90 watts. Only about half of that makes it to the antenna, but the amplifier has made a significant improvement, particularly in building penetration when using an HT indoors. We have noticed no degradation in the repeater's receive capability.

Each month additional stations passing through town or linking to our repeaters over the D Star gateway take advantage of our Club's fine D Star installation. 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.

RARC VE News

The next VE testing session will be Saturday, November 10th at 9:00am, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

If you have questions about a session, please see our website, www.rarclub.net/ or contact Allan, WA3J, at 804-399-8724, or wa3j@arrrl.net.

September Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 14, 2012
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM Called to order at 7:05 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. Visitors included, Ed Griffin, KK4FON, Ron Byzot, WA4PRR, Randy Sweeny, N4WDR and Clint Kranski (in the class presently)

The August minutes were approved.

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

Two new applications for membership were accepted: Randy Sweeney, N4WDR and Tim Deely, KJ4TRI. Welcome new members. ☺

Old Business:

- Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU gave a report on the school. All is going well with each class.
- Joe Palsa, reported that the ARES exercise for the Galax area will be conducted Oct. 6. The local group will be having an exercise the following month. A National Hurricane Net will be put together with ARES members. Nets will be on through duration of storms if necessary. Remember that the repeater is for the storm related news when in progress.
- Jim Bates, KJ4WLH, reported the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will be Oct. 20 in Goochland. There will be around 1,000-1,200 scouts attending.

People are needed to come out and talk up ham radio with the kids to build interests in the hobby. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jim. Several reported that it is a very enjoyable event.

- Thanks to Dan Bryant for helping with refreshments. A volunteer is still needed for October. The annual banquet will be held in November at Nick's again this year. Reservations will be taken next month for the dinner. Please be sure to make your reservations early.
- Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, chairman of the nominating committee reported. Other members on the committee included Lew Best, W4LEW and Ron Chase, KD4XA. The following members were recommended for election to serve next year. President, Win Grant, WA4SSG, Vice President, Pete Fundinger, AA4PF, Treasurer, Richard Arnold, WA4FEH, Secretary, Maylon Pearman, KG4RPQ. Directors: Chris Walker, N4CBW, and Jim Bates, KJ4WLH. As provided in the Bylaws, the past president, Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU serves as a Director. After the election, the President appoints one Director. The registered agent to Va. State Corporation Commission (SCC) appointed by the Board is Marshall Ervine, N4XBP.
- Win reported that volunteers are still needed for the 100th anniversary celebration planning committee. It is still at the planning stage and ideas and volunteers are welcomed.
- D-star enhancements have been made. An amplifier has been added to the UHF repeater. We need additional net control operators for the Wednesday night D Star net. If you are D-star capable please let Win know if you can help out with this one week a month.

New business:

- Dave Meier reported that the 900 Mhz. band activity is growing and he still has more radios if anyone is interested.
- Grayle Hundley suggested having a directory of members' names and call signs and interests so that all are aware. Win reported that a survey is almost ready to collect this type of information. Grayle is

also coordinating getting rides to meetings for members who need them. He will coordinate this project. If interested in helping, please contact Grayle.

There was no further business, so the meeting was adjourned @ 7:35 PM. The program following on Recycling was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Johnson, N8WEA

JOTA

Boy Scouts of America - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

What: Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
When: Saturday, October 20, 2012 - 9 AM - 4 PM
Where: Cub Adventure Camp, 172 Maidens Road, Maidens, VA 23102 or (37.675244, - 77.867854)
Who: Jim Bates (KJ4WLH), Cell - (804) 592-1068, jl Bates4@gmail.com, 146.520 Talk-In

Details: I am looking for anyone who wishes to volunteer to spend some hours supporting our hobby. We'll be doing setup at 8am and take down at 4pm. No need to bring anything for the group, however, personal HT's are always nice. We've been offered meals by the Scout Admin folks. Please come and stay as long or little as you like - no pressure! I've listed my cell phone if you need to get in contact with me on Saturday. I hope to see you there!

Jim Bates (KJ4WLH)

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

FCC Seeks to Change Amateur Radio Licensing Rules, Allow Additional Emission Types

On October 2, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in WT Docket No. 12-121 that seeks to change the Amateur Radio licensing rules, especially as they concern former licensees. Acting upon an April 2011 Petition for rulemaking filed by the Anchorage VEC to give permanent credit to radio amateurs for examination elements they have successfully passed, the FCC proposes to revise Section 97.505 to require that Volunteer Examiners (VEs) give examination credit to an applicant who can demonstrate that he or she formerly held a particular class of license. In addition, the Commission seeks to shorten the grace period during which an expired amateur license may be renewed and to reduce the number of VEs needed to administer an amateur license examination. In response to a **Rulemaking filed by the ARRL in March 2011**, the FCC looks to amend the Amateur Service rules to allow amateur stations to transmit additional emission types in order to permit Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) in the Amateur Service. But in doing so, it denied the League's request for a blanket waiver pending the resolution of the rulemaking proceeding. A detailed and lengthy explanation of this NPRM can be found on the ARRL website.

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. Check it out!

Also from the ARRL

The ARRL wants to hear from kit builders about simple, useful, educational and exciting kits. These kits should have a high probability for success and would serve as stepping stones for more advanced projects. We are looking all sorts of kits, but RF detector kits that work in the 380 MHz-2.5 GHz range are of special interest. The kits should also have a "Wow, I built this and it works!" factor. If you know of such a kit, please let us know by filling out a simple form available at the ARRL website by October 31.

Is ham radio growing?

Look at the numbers!

At the end of 2010 there were 696,041 Amateur Radio licensees in the USA.

Here are the past totals for the USA:

March 2012 - 704,236

2011 - 702,056

2010 - 696,041

2009 - 682,497

2008 - 663,564

2007 - 655,842

2006 - 656,068

2005 - 662,600

Also important...

Higher percentages of Amateur Radio licensees are going far beyond the initial Technician Class license and earning General or even Amateur Extra Class licenses.

There are approximately 2.5 million Amateur Radio operators in the world. The numbers, while believed accurate, can vary somewhat because different countries use different systems to count licensees.

Restoration Project Possibility?

A Club member, KJ4WLH, has recently been asked by a friend for some help with three vintage Ham radios that were given to him. Two are Gonset model G-66B receivers and one Morrow MBR-5 receiver. It is unknown what the working status of these units are. He is interested in selling them but is unsure of their value. Anyone interested in acquiring one of these radios or able to assist in determining a fair value for them can contact Gerry Choate, 540-241-0874

RARC Annual Banquet

As mentioned earlier in the Newsletter Bob Eshleman, W4DR, will be the guest speaker at the annual banquet on November 9. More information about Bob will be provided in the November newsletter, but he plans to talk about a famous DXpedition to Navassa Island in 1954 when three teenagers put this rare DX country on the air. Check out page 76 of the October QST to read Bob's article before you get to hear from the author in person.

Arrangements for this year's banquet will be similar to past years. The restaurant has prepared a special menu for us to order from. A reservation form is being mailed to all current members. You DO NOT need to pre-order your meal, but the menu is included on the reservation form so you can see the offerings and prices. As in the past seating is limited to fifty-five so once those seats are filled the Club will be unable to accept further reservations. Last year was tight! Bring your reservation form to the October meeting or mail it in.

2013 Club Dues Reminder

Club dues are due and payable November 1st of each year. We gladly accept your dues any time in the month of November; however, the longer you wait to send them in the greater the chance your name will not be in the club roster and you will not be receiving the newsletter.

Thanks, Richard Arnold, WA4FEH, Treasurer

The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at wa1ugo@arrl.net, or call me at 804-454-0564. 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: 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 900 MHz repeater. Also available, 30 watt capable transceivers for \$145, trade-ins taken. Contact Dave Meier, N4MW, n4mw@msn.com

Thought for the Day

Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic.

73 de:

Win Grant	WA4SSG	PRESIDENT	(804) 272-9695	wa4ssg(at)arrl.net
Pete Fundinger	AA4PF	VICE-PRESIDENT	(804) 639-5573	aa4pf(at)verizon.net
Patricia Johnson	N8WEA	SECRETARY		
Richard Arnold	WA4FEH	TREASURER		