



# THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235



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NOVEMBER 2012

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**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, November 9, 2012, 7:00 PM, at **Nick's Roman Terrace Restaurant**, 8051 W. Broad Street (Westland Shopping Center).

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## Coming Events:

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

A few spaces are still available! Give Richard Arnold a call if you would like to attend (804) 743-3899.

**December Meeting**, December 14, 7:00 PM. Annual Christmas gathering – bring your favorite finger food or dessert.

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## 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.

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## From The Prez

We have a special treat at our upcoming annual banquet. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Bob Eshleman, W4DR, will be our guest speaker. Bob has an international reputation as one of the top DXer's in the world. I remember some years ago when I was working a DX station. I gave my QTH as Richmond, Virginia, and the DX station asked, "Do you know W4DR?"

Bob was licensed at age 14 as W4QCW. In 1954, he participated in the first Navassa Island DXpedition. The October QST features an article about that fascinating event, and you can hear more about it at the banquet.

Bob's DX accomplishments are something most of us only dream about. One of his most impressive awards, and a record that will never be broken, was in 1969 when Bob earned the first Five Band DXCC award. Most of us will never achieve that, but Bob earned it shortly after the award was created.

In 2001, Bob was awarded the first, and as of 2007, only Clinton B DeSoto Cup for the most documented Band/Entities (DXCC countries) on 160 through 6 meters.

When he wasn't working DX, Bob was teaching dentistry at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry. And Bob is a past president of our Club.

We look forward to Bob's presentation at our banquet on November 9.

## Scotchkote is Back!

Scotchkote is a product of 3M Corporation that I was introduced to years ago by my friend Wray, AB4SF, who learned about it when he was a radar technician in the Coast Guard. It was sort of the gold standard of waterproofing materials. To produce a weathertight connection, you simply wrapped the connection in vinyl tape (Scotch 33 or 88), brushed on a layer or two of Scotchkote, and then wrapped the connection with one more layer of tape. A properly taped and coated connection is suitable for direct burial or direct immersion. A couple of years ago, the EPA decided that Scotchkote had some detrimental effect on the environment, and it disappeared from shelves in most states including Virginia. A reformulated (and apparently environmentally friendly) version called Scotchkote FD is now back on the market and available at electrical supply houses.

If you need to weatherproof an antenna connection, Scotchkote FD and vinyl tape are a great combination.

73 Win

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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**

The next VE testing session will be Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am, 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.

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**October Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 12, 2012

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM Called to order at 7:00 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. Welcome to Doug Rumberg, who just recently became a new ham.

The September minutes were approved and motioned to accept.

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

Richard also announced that the membership dues are now due. Please remember to pay at any time now.

There were no new applications to accept and no new upgrades to announce.

Win recognized Armand Hamel, WA1UQO, for working hard on the newsletter and getting all the mailings done this month. Thanks for all the hard work he put into it.

**Old Business:**

- Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU gave a report on the school. All is going well with each class including the morse code class.
- Joe Palsa, K3WRY, reported that an ARES exercise for Tazwell County was held and all went well. Chesterfield County will be conducting an emergency drill in the next month or so. Joe also reminded members that the Central Virginia Contesting Club

meets every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. They are looking for new participants. Please come out and join them if you are interested.

- Win announced that the annual banquet will be held Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at Nick's Greek Italian Restaurant. (same as last year) Please remember to reserve a spot by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. There is limited seating available. The guest speaker this year will be Bob Eshleman, W4DR. He will be discussing an interesting DXpedition to Navassa Island.
- The holiday Christmas Social will be held in December in place of the usual meeting. Remember to bring your favorite holiday treat. More information will be coming your way later.
- 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 come out anytime from 8:00-4:00. If you can't attend, then just turn on your radio and listen for the scouts to be "on the air". If you are interested in finding the frequencies being used by the scouts, just google JOTA and it will take you the link for the frequencies.
- Tom Flippin, KD4CMK, gave recognition to the old D-star signs displayed in the room. Please remember to get on the air and use the repeater if you have the capability. Jim Bates also reminded everyone that there is a D-star net every week.
  - Roy Schultz, KI4MC, announced that the Diabetes Walk-a-thon will be held the following day at St. Mary's hospital. Helpers are still needed. All you need is good walking shoes and an HT radio. Come out and enjoy this public service event.

**New business:**

- The question was asked if there is a net for 900 mhz. It was noted that Dave Meyers owns the repeater and it is not affiliated with any club. The people affiliated with the repeater are not interested in a net, but if someone else was

interested in starting a net, they probably would not object.

Remember that there are several nets already up and running. The list is provided in the newsletter each month and on the web page.

- The nominating committee called for election of officers and board members. The following were elected as officers and directors for 2013: Win Grant, WA4SSG, President; Pete Fundinger, AA4PF, Vice-President; Richard Arnold, WA4FEH, Treasurer; Maylon Pearman, KG4RPQ, Secretary; Chris Walker, N4CBW, Director; and Jim Bates, KJ4WLH, Director. Other directors are past president, Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, and Ron Chase, KD4XA, appointed by the president. The registered agent to Va. State Corporation Commission (SCC) appointed by the Board is Marshall Ervine, N4XBP.

- There was no further business, so the meeting was adjourned @ 7:20 PM. Robert Orndorff was the guest speaker and gave a presentation on "Solar Numbers and Amateur Radio". Members enjoyed a slide presentation and a question/answer session followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Johnson, N8WEA

*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). Check it out!

### 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/>.

### 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

### RARC Website Updated!

Thanks to Chris Walker, N4CBW. Check it out to see what's new. <http://www.rarclub.net/>.

### Fellow Ham needs Help

A fellow Richmond Ham has made a request of one of our members for some help with the repair of a handheld (2 meter C-2A/AT/E) that he has. If you are able to help him, please contact him at [lwgar@mindspring.com](mailto:lwgar@mindspring.com) Landon Garland - N4CBF (retired).

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### AmateurLogic.TV Anniversary Contest

Some club members may be aware of this contest giveaway, but for those who are not, the Amateurlogic.tv videocast is celebrating their seventh year of podcasting by giving away an entire HF station! Items include an Icom IC-7200, power supply, antenna tuner, coax cable, Heil microphone, fittings and more. Full details are available at this website or by watching episodes #45 or #46. This package will make a great Christmas present! <http://amateurlogic.tv/contest/>

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### Frostfest Tickets Available!

Frostfest will be here before you know it! Feb 2, 2013 is sneaking up. Earlybird tickets are available at [www.frostfest.com](http://www.frostfest.com)

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### BS-JOTA SUCCESS!

2012 Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air.

The BS-JOTA was held on Saturday, October 20th from 8:30 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. at the Cub Adventure Camp, located in Maidens, VA. The BSA Heart of Virginia Council's Cardinal District held a Cub Scout "Cub Olympics" during the weekend of October 19th - 21st. Approximately 1,200 Cub Scouts and their families camped during the weekend.

I'd like to thank the following individuals and sponsors:

- Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)
  - Sponsored the BS-JOTA station
  - Provided HF equipment
  - D-Star repeater access
- Richmond Amateur Telecommunication Society (RATS)
  - UHF IRLP repeater access

- Cardinal District, Heart of Virginia Council
  - Provided facilities for the BS-JOTA station
  - Allowed the station to be part of the "Cub Olympics"
- Volunteers (in callsign order)
  - KB4IQT - David Thomas - Troop 832
  - KK4DWX - Bob Kendig
  - N4CVA - Austin Thomas - Troop 832
  - WA1UQO - Armand Hamel
  - WA4SSG - Win Grant
- Mac McNeer(K4YEF)
  - Use of the RARC Club callsign: W4ZA

The BS-JOTA team set up an HF station, D-Star station, VHF/UHF station, and IRLP station over the day. Contacts on HF were made all over the United States, Canada, and even over to Europe! Austin Thomas (N4CVA), a Boy Scout, was instrumental in showing the Cub Scouts how to make the "correct" contact - and MANY boys did make HF contacts throughout the day! Austin did a fantastic job!

When large numbers of Cub Scouts showed up at the BS-JOTA station, Win Grant (WA4SSG) and David Thomas (KB4IQT) would take small groups a few dozen yards away from each other and they would use HT's to make contacts with each other. Needless to say, a LOT of "local" contacts were made as well!

Armand Hamel (WA1UQO) brought one of the most fun instruments of the day - a key and code practice oscillator! I believe Armand's key was the MOST USED piece of equipment - at least 100 scouts touched the key and just LOVED making it squeak and squeal. One "lesson" shared with the boys was teaching them how to say "HI" in Morse Code: ". . . . ." The best part of having the boys learn to key "HI" was telling them that they could use their flashlights and do the SAME THING with the light - they could "talk" to each other in "secret code"! Big smiles, you could almost see the wheels turning in their heads as they figured out what they were going to do later that night.

The D-Star station was connected to the BS-JOTA reflector (REF033A) and occasionally to the Atlanta reflector (REF030C). D-Star contacts were light as most of the operators were VERY busy helping the scouts talk either



on HF or HT's in the small groups. There were a lot of stations making contacts throughout the world on the BS-JOTA reflector: Argentina, UK, New Zealand, and many others. It was great hearing all the different countries and the accents of the stations were really interesting to the scouts as well.

As the afternoon wore on, the Scouts (and the operators) were getting tired! The HF station was shut down and we linked the RATS UHF IRLP node to the BS-JOTA node (9091). Scout after Scout after Scout made contacts primarily with other scouts in Canada and Texas. At least 20 Scouts made contacts with other Scouts; and an occasional Ham as well - all over IRLP!

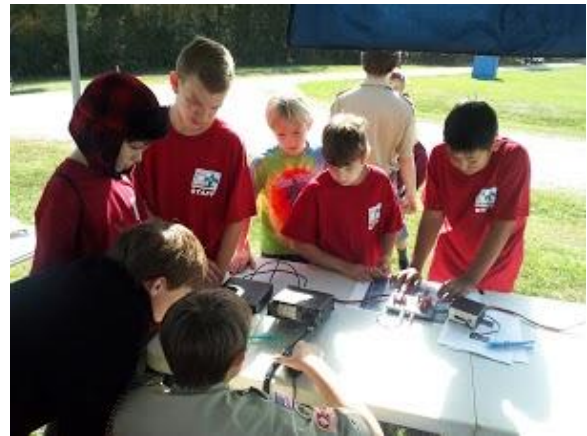
The day went great! At least 50 - 60 Scouts made contacts with someone, mostly with other Scouts. The day was beautiful. The volunteers made the day go smoothly and were so generous with their time. My final thoughts are these - I really enjoy ham radio and I also sharing my passion for this great hobby of ours with people who are open to new ideas! We are the ones who make the entrance to our hobby "friendly" and "welcoming". Get out there and "welcome" someone into your hobby today!

73 de KJ4WLH  
Jim Bates, Troop 876, RARC Member, RATS Member

Link to [Pictures](#):



Austin Thomas (N4CVA)



### **The SWAP SHOP**

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1ugo@arrl.net](mailto: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](mailto:n4mw@msn.com)

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### **Thought for the Day**

If you lend someone \$20, and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

### **73 de:**

<b>Win Grant</b>	<b>WA4SSG</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	(804) 272-9695	<a href="mailto:wa4ssg(at)arrl.net">wa4ssg(at)arrl.net</a>
<b>Pete Fundinger</b>	<b>AA4PF</b>	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	(804) 639-5573	<a href="mailto:aa4pf(at)verizon.net">aa4pf(at)verizon.net</a>
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