



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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February 2013

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**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, February 8th 2013, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

**PROGRAM:** "Antenna systems and how they work" by Gordon Winn WW4GW

### **Coming Events:**

**February Meeting,** February 8, 7:00 PM.

**VE Testing Session,** March 9, 2013 9:am at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

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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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### **Getting to know this month's speaker**

WW4GW Gordon Winn (aka "Bubba") will give a presentation on antenna systems and how they work. He will cover antenna basics from the dipole to yagis and loops, with live demonstrations of how they work and show their actual propagation characteristics. This presentation will answer many questions that you may have had on your antennas' performance and what if anything can be done to improve it, and is sure to have many "Bubba-isms" throughout. "Bubba" built his first radio at the age of eight, and has been hooked ever since. He has been licensed since the late '50s and continues to experiment with antenna systems and their performance. Today he has designed and built most of his antennas himself. I think you will find this to be an informative and enjoyable evening. Of course, you will need to come to terms with the realization that you are attempting to learn something from somebody called "Bubba". Take a chance - you will not be disappointed!

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### **From The Prez**

I'm trying some new technology as I write this column. This is not my first column drafted at sea, but I'm using an Ipad for the first time. It's definitely smaller and lighter than any laptop I own. While I miss the features of a "real" computer, I have a Bluetooth mechanical keyboard connected to the Ipad, and it really makes a difference in typing a document as opposed to simply surfing the web. Glass

keyboards (touch screens) are not designed for heavy duty text entry. (Don't faint, but I heard that Ed Bryce, KG4SNK, a man who did not own a computer, has an Ipad.)

Some months ago I mentioned a new product announced by Icom in late summer, the ID 51A D Star (and analog FM) HT. It only received FCC certification in late January, and should be shipping soon, but to learn more about it I was able to download the 367 page manual from the Icom website onto the Ipad before I left. A rainy day here in Bora Bora kept us on the boat rather than underwater, so I spent four hours learning more about the radio.

We all know how computers and ham radio have converged in many respects over the past 20 years. But I was struck by one feature of the ID 51A that seems to take this to a new level. In addition to the built in voice recorder (which will record your entire QSO if you wish), GPS receiver, aviation band and broadcast receivers, and voice synthesizer to read out the display, the ID 51A has a logging feature that will automatically store a wealth of information about your QSO onto its built in micro SD memory card. When using the D Star mode, the logging feature will record, without any human intervention: date, time, frequency, S meter reading, transmit power, callsign of the other station and your exact location coordinates, including elevation to one decimal point. Like a lot of "features" of electronic devices today, manufacturers often offer a feature because they can, not because anyone needs the feature. That may be the case with the ID 51A, but it's pretty cool how many functions can be done now in the radio with the help of a built in microprocessor.

Having said all of that, I'm still thrilled with my Icom HF transceiver that weighs 75 pounds and was designed 15 years ago because it has a lot of knobs which I prefer to moving a mouse around a screen or digging down through multiple layers of menus. When I hear a vintage Collins S Line on the air, it sounds as good or better than many of the current production radio/computers. The convergence between radios and computers is inevitable, but fortunately we have a lot of choices in ham equipment these days.

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, March 9<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](mailto:wa3j@arrl.net).

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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). Check it out!

### 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

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### The Holidays are over! Time to go back to school!

#### Tell your friends about the license classes!

Tell your friends about the ham radio license classes starting March 4th. If you want to upgrade, tell yourself, also. These are ten week classes ending in May with a chance to take the FCC license exam. The details are on the club website [rarclub.net](http://rarclub.net). Click the tab at the top to see the classes or the schedule on the right to see the dates.

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### Thanks Grayle

Thanks again to Grayle Hunley, KF4USV for last months great chili and coffee treat!!

## Spring 2013 Classes

Classes run for ten weeks. Note the change in normal schedule for these spring classes.

### Registration

Tuesday, March 05, 2013, 7:00 to 9:00 PM  
Late registration after classes start disrupts those classes. Call the instructor if you cannot register on time and negotiate.

### Classes

**Technician** and **Extra** license preparation – Tuesdays, March 12, 2013 through May 07, 2013, 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

**Antenna Modeling with EZNEC** – Tuesdays, April 9, 16, 23, 7:00 to 9:30 PM. Students bring Windows or Mac laptops and learn to use EZNEC for modeling antennas.

**General** license preparation – Thursdays, March 14, 2013 through May 16, 2013, 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

**Morse Code** if there are enough students – Thursdays, March 14, 2013 through May 16, 2013 with the course taught with a combination of periodic classroom meetings and at-home practice via computer software.

**Electronics for Hams** will not be taught in the spring. The instructor has committed to teaching it in the fall.

### License Exams

Thursday, May 9 2013, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

### Costs

The Club charges each participant \$15 for the entire 10-week course. We do not charge extra if you want to take Tuesday night and Thursday night classes. The fee is still \$15.

The **Technician**, **General** and **Extra** ARRL license manuals includes a CD ROM with a practice test program and cost \$30 each. Manuals may be purchased registration night and will be available for the first night of class.

There are no textbooks for the **Morse Code** and **Electronics for Hams** classes.

The Club provides a VEC testing session at the end of each course. There is a \$15 examination fee.

Please bring the exact amounts to cover the fee and book or plan to pay by check.

### School Location

Registration, classes, and exams are held at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road, Richmond, VA 23235. Please enter the church from the West Bon View Drive side of the building. Signs inside direct you to the correct room.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, school coordinator and Extra class instructor

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### BSA to Offer Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip

The Boy Scouts of America ([BSA](#)) has approved an Amateur Radio Operator rating strip for Scouts and Scouters to wear on their uniforms. According to BSA Communication Services Director Jim Wilson, K5ND, the strip recognizes the Scout or Scouter's availability as an Amateur Radio operator for communication services for events and activities, as well as emergencies. All registered youth members and adult leaders who also hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license of any class are eligible to wear the rating strip.

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**THE WOUFF HONG** From the 1969 ARRL "Radio Amateur's Operating Manual" Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air. This is the Wouff Hong. It was invented -or at any rate, discovered- by "The Old Man" himself, just as amateurs were getting back on the air after World War One. "The Old Man" (who later turned out to be Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, Co-founder

and first president of ARRL) first heard the Wouff Hong described amid the howls and garble of QRM as he tuned across a band filled with signals which exemplified all the rotten operating practices then available to amateurs,

considering the state of the art as they knew it. As amateur technology and ingenuity have advanced, we have discovered new and improved techniques of rotten operating, but we're ahead of our story.

As The Old Man heard it, the Wouff Hong was being used on some hapless offender so effectively that he investigated. After further effort, "T.O.M." was able to locate and identify a Wouff Hong. He wrote a number of QST articles about contemporary rotten operating practices and the use of the Wouff Hong to discipline the offenders.

Early in 1919, The Old Man wrote in QST "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff Hong which came to light out here . . . Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay hands on it quickly in an emergency. The

"specimen of a real live Wouff Hong" was presented to a meeting of the ARRL Board and QST reported later that "each face noticeably blanched when the awful Wouff Hong was . . . laid upon the table." The Board voted that the Wouff Hong be framed and hung in the office of the Secretary of the League and there it remains to this day, a sobering influence on every visitor to League Headquarters who has ever swooshed a carrier across a crowded band.

The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air.

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### **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), 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 add.***

**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)

Alpha Delta brand OCF 7-Band 300 Watt (Buckmaster Antenna) Good condition Buckmaster OCF antenna resold by Alpha Delta. New price \$207 @ <http://hamcall.net/7bandocf.html> My price \$150.00 Contact Jim Bates <mailto:jlbbates4@gmail.com> (804) 592-1068

### **Thought for the Day**

You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stopped laughing.

### **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>
<b>Maylon Pearman</b>	<b>KG4RPQ</b>	<b>SECRETARY</b>		
<b>Richard Arnold</b>	<b>WA4FEH</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>		