



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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May 2013

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**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, May 10th 2013, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

**PROGRAM:** Agilent test gear demonstration by Brewer Pedin, W4MGA.

## Coming Events:

**May Meeting,** May 10, 7:00 PM.

**RARC Annual Yard Sale and Silent Auction**  
May 11<sup>th</sup> 8:am to 1:pm

**VE Testing Session,** May 11, 2013 9:am at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

**Manassas Hamfest,** June 9, 2013. Info at [www.manassashamfest.org](http://www.manassashamfest.org)

**Field Day:** June 22 & 23 Laurel Recreation Area

## Public Service:

June 1 & 2 Bike MS Contact Mike Hackett AC5PT [ac5pt@yahoo.com](mailto:ac5pt@yahoo.com)

June 7 & 8 Virginia Special Olympics : Contact Matthew Kimball, K4MTK <http://k4mtk.com>.

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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

Brewer Pedin, W4MGA, was first licensed WN4MGA in 1969. A life long ham and Richmonder, he was a member of the Huguenot High School ARC, a broadcast engineer in the 1970's and earned a BSEE in 1983 from VA TECH . He has been with HP/Agilent as an RF/uWave/Wireless engineer for the last 25 years. Skill sets include vector network and spectrum analysis, wireless comms, cellular, surveillance for DoD, government, and commercial customers. Brewer teaches classes in these fields, and will illuminate the current state of the art in portable field network analyzers.

## From The Prez

Many organizations, clubs in particular, accomplish a lot through committees which focus on specific tasks. It often proves to be an efficient way to complete projects when a core group, within the larger organization, can concentrate on individual projects. Although not denominated a committee, our Radio

School, ably led by Bruce MacAlister, is a perfect example. Bruce and his co-instructors and volunteer examiners, devote many hours each year to preparing students for the license exams and administering those exams. Not everyone has the gift of teaching, but we have a small group within our organization who have that gift.

The bylaws of the Club allow the president to appoint committees. Last year I appointed a committee to look at options for a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Club. A few of you volunteered to serve on the committee. We need more members for that committee and someone to serve as chairman. The time for celebration will soon be upon us, so please let me know if you will serve on the anniversary planning committee.

I have decided to appoint a Repeater Committee to manage our D Star repeaters. Responsibility for the repeaters had been a function of the Technical Committee, but after discussing this matter with the board of directors, I think we would be well served to have a committee devoted solely to the repeaters. D Star is still a new technology. In addition to the traditional radio skills, D Star involves some pretty intricate knowledge of IT skills and networking in particular. In the next few weeks, I will be reaching out to some of you to ask if you will serve on this new committee.

If you have other suggestions for a committee which you think would advance the mission of the Club, please let me know.

Finally, it's almost time for the Dayton Hamvention. As I have written in the past, Dayton is unlike any hamfest I had ever attended before my first trip just four years ago. If you've never been, try to experience Dayton before you get too old. I only wish I had started going years earlier.

73  
Win

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## Field Day!!!

Field Day will be here before you know it!! Mark your calendar for June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> and get the sun block, coffee and repellent ready. If you've never tried it, you're in for a great time and great fun at the Laurel Recreation Area.

## April Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: April 13, 2013  
Meeting Time: 8:00 PM  
Presiding Offices: Pete Fundinger, AA4PF, Vice President; Richard Arnold, WA4FEH, Treasurer; and Maylon Pearman, KG4RPQ, Secretary.

Pete Fundinger called the meeting to order and welcomed guest Terry Crabb, AK4PE; Joseph Mayfield, KK4RNB; Joseph Mencarini, KK4OWZ; Robert Snyder, KK4LFN; Ron Cappelli; Steve Lesley, KK4HBS; and Jacob Lesley.

The March minutes were approved.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, reported on the spring classes.

The March Treasurer report was given by Richard Arnold, AA4FEH. Applications were accepted for two new members, Terry Crabb, AK4PE and Sam Mayfield KK4PNB. Welcome to the club!

Grayle Hunley, KF4USV asked for volunteers for the ride sharing program for older members who may not be able to drive. Please contact him if you can assist.

Pete Fundinger reported that Special Olympics needs volunteers for June 7 & 8. They need operators at different points on Friday and Saturday.

Marshall Ervine, N4XBP, reminded everyone about the silent auction May 10th and the yard sale at the church on Saturday May 11. He asked for donated items that you're no longer using such as ham gear and household items for the sale.

Allan Johnson, WA3J, announced that ham exams will also be given Saturday morning on May 11 at the church.

Joe Palsa, K3WRY, reported on Chesterfield County integrating amateur radio into its emergency planning.

There was no further business, so the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, entertained the club with a program of music and videos about ham radios.

## RARC VE News

The next VE testing session will be Saturday, May 11<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.

## 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!

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### Refreshment Schedule

We currently have the following commitments for upcoming meeting refreshments. Wouldn't your name sure look great on the list?

March - Bruce MacAlister

April - Pete Fundinger

May - Marshall Ervine

June

July

August

September

October - Dave Thomas

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### Virginia Special Olympics

The Virginia Special Olympics summer games needs thirty two (32) hams on the field with officials plus a few more serving as net control. It is Friday, June 7 and Saturday June 8. Then there is set up Thursday night, June 6. You sign up for as much of any of the days as you want. So it may take 60 to 70 hams to cover it all for two days. You need an HT, a good hat, a water bottle, and a willingness to have some fun. The hams are organized by Matthew Kimball, K4MTK. See <http://k4mtk.com>.

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**RARC YARD SALE**  
**Saturday, May 11, 2013**  
**8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**  
**Bon Air United Methodist Church,**  
**Fellowship Hall**

***Please help make this a great fundraiser  
for the Club!***

**Bring donations of clean, usable items of any kind with you to the May 10<sup>th</sup> Club meeting.** Suggestions include: household items, children's toys, books, pet items, computers, kitchen appliances, dishes, electronic items, sporting goods, decorations, crafts, tools, exercise equipment, plants, DVD/CDs, jewelry, watches, and furniture. Please price as many of your items as you can.

Please note on your electrical/electronic items if they work.

Donated items that are not sold will be given to a local charity unless they are picked up prior to 1:00 PM on the day of the sale.

If you have any questions, please call Winn Grant at 301-8847 or Marshall Ervine at 320-8629.

### RARC's Annual Yard Sale

Each year, we count on our members to donate "stuff" to be offered at the club's yard sale and auction. The Yard Sale and Silent Auction are the club's only fund raising events, and the proceeds help fund club activities such as the repeater, meeting refreshments, and the newsletter. Please start looking around your house for items that you would like to donate. These are fund events, and the money raised makes up a significant portion of the club's annual budget. We can also use help at the sale, so volunteers are most welcome.

### Silent Auction

The Club's annual Silent Auction has been a great fundraiser for the Club for the last couple of years. We have been blessed with generous donations of nice ham gear from many sources. This year, we are asking our members and friends to consider donating any ham gear that they think they will never need or use again. There are many new hams in the Club who could use some gently used older gear to help them get started. You can't write off the donation on your taxes, but it's a great feeling to know that you have helped a fellow ham and the Club at the same time. Please let Marshall, N4XBP, know if you have any gear that you are willing to donate. He will need to know by the end of April, so that the auction items can be listed in the May newsletter. Thanks to all who donate, and also to those that bid!

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### Do you have a 2 meter J-Pole that needs a home?

The Boy Scouts have a need for a donated 2-meter J-Pole antenna for the July 2013 National Scout Jamboree. The crew for the

electricity-electronics merit badge booth wants to be connected to the scout VHF net to show the scouts. They have the transceiver but not the antenna.

Contact Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, 353-4269

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### **Scouting Help Needed - Webelo's Communication Badge Leader**

There will be a Webelo's Day Camp the week of June 17 - 21. The theme is Space Exploration and the Day Camp leaders would really like to hold a Communication workshop. The requirements are described at the following link:

[http://www.boyscouttrail.com/webelos/webelos\\_activity\\_badge\\_requirements.asp#Communicator](http://www.boyscouttrail.com/webelos/webelos_activity_badge_requirements.asp#Communicator) (or Search Google for "Webelo Communication Badge")

Please contact Rosemary Tufaro @ [rosemarysphotography@yahoo.com](mailto:rosemarysphotography@yahoo.com) or (804) 467-4281

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### **Help A Club Member**

Grayle Hunley, KF4USV, is looking for volunteers to help give rides for older members to club meetings. He has members listed by zip codes to find those nearest to you. Contact Grayle if you can help. 730-0455

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### **"The Ham-ateur or There and Back Again" by Jimbo Baggins with apologies to J.R.R. Tolkien**

April 2013  
Part - 2

The weekend of the Boy Scout Merit Badge day "pretense" had arrived. Finally, I "had" to pack up all my gear to take my boy to his beloved workshop! I really don't know who was more excited, my son Will or me - probably me... Regardless, I had packed up my Camry FULL of equipment with just enough room for myself and my son. We got in the car around 6:30am, coffee in hand for me and a couple of breakfast sandwiches and we were on our way. Negligible traffic all the way to Charlottesville and the GPS directed us to the Charlottesville High School right on time. Walked Will into the assembly, made sure the timetable was still accurate (gotta be back by 5PM!) and Will was

good to go! I'm OFF!

I jumped back on to I-64 and started driving west. At the base of the mountains, I noticed a few damp snowflakes on the windshield - hmm, I wasn't really expecting snow - but that's ok, I like snow. A few minutes later, I arrived at the exit I'd thought about for so many years: Exit 99! Now, it's actually really snowing - not just a couple of flakes, but a whole lot. I wonder what that means for Skyline Drive. I'm only about 5 miles from my destination, no point in worrying about snow - let's get on the air! I pass through the Park gates and after just a few more minutes, and a LOT more snow - I mean it's really snowing now, I arrived at my destination: Beagle Gap - about 2,500 ASL!

Since there was NOBODY around, I found a nice location right by the side of the parking area where I could put up a couple of speaker stands - I use them for yagi's. I had decided that I would have to operate from the "comfort" of my back seat - there was just too much snow coming down to even consider setting up the portable table and equipment outside. Not being "too" deterred, I started unloading the yagis and set up the speaker stands. I've gotta say, it was much colder than I was expecting! Cold steel tools, with cold aluminum yagis, and cold steel speaker stands sure can zap the warmth right out of your hands! (Lesson learned!)

I'd just finished getting the second speaker stand set up when I see a Park Ranger headed towards me in a very intimidating truck. He pulled up and informed me Skyline Drive was being closed - I was heartbroken! So we chatted for a few minutes and I told him I'd start packing up my gear. As he drove off, I thought - what the heck, I'm gonna try my 900Mhz HT. So, I picked it up and gave a quick CQ to the Richmond 900 repeater. I got an immediate repeater response and THEN, W4MJQ (Larry Lawhorn) gave me a shout back! The report was full quieting into the repeater and Larry was full quieting back to me as well - WOW, height makes quite the difference! A moment later, KD4CMK (Tom Flippin) joined in the conversation! That was awesome, I'm standing in the snow trying to figure out how to keep talking AND packing up the gear AND stay warm AND stay dry. I chatted for a few more minutes and then had to go QRT.

I packed up all my gear and was really happy that I made a contact with 2 local Richmond hams. I was also REALLY happy that I picked a backup location - as that was my new

destination! As I sat in the car, looking at the snow coming down, I just took a moment to enjoy the scenery - it was really pretty, looking over the valley with a snowfall making everything clean and white. I started up the Camry, saw the Park Ranger on the road heading my way and knew my time was up... I drove back down Skyline Drive to the top of the I-64 interchange and parked in the new Tourist building - hey, they have a portable toilet! Things I didn't really plan on, like what to do with "old coffee", finally had a decent answer! I walked in and asked the lady working if I could set up my gear and she was enthusiastically supportive! So, back to the car for radio gear setup - round #2! Stay Tuned for the the final installment next month.

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### Like to read exciting books?

Do you enjoy reading a fast paced novel – one you are turning pages as fast as you can read and suddenly realize it is 1:30 in the morning? One that is full of twists and turns. One that makes you wonder if this has already happened. There is a great new action novel out written by Jim McCulloch, WD7H, titled Fracture Gradient. It was reviewed by Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, on page 46 of the April 2013 issue of QST. After reading Rick's review I ordered the book from Amazon (\$16) and two days later I was buried in the intrigue. It really was hard to put the book down! The story even incorporates amateur radio. If you enjoy Clive Cussler or Tom Clancy novels, I can't imagine you not enjoying this book. Check out Rick's review – you might be inspired to get a copy of the book and enjoy it yourself.

73, Ron, kd4xa

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### SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

#### (WITH MINIMUM BID AMOUNT)

**Yaesu FT-411 2M HT.** Set up for mobile use with speaker mic and mobile adapter/power cord. Good condition. Works fine/checked out on air. Manual. No battery pack or charger. \$25

**President HR 2600 Mobile multi-mode 10 M transceiver.** Output power - CW 25 Watts; USB/LSB 25 Watts PEP; AM/FM 10 Watts. With mic, power cord, manual. Good condition. Works fine/checked out on air with good audio report. \$100

**Astron RS12A power supply.** Very good condition. Works fine. \$45

**MFJ 949D antenna tuner.** 300 Watt. Very good condition. Manual. No wall wart for instrument light. Checked out on air and works fine. \$45

**Icom IC-V80 2M HT.** With battery and drop-in charger. USB programming cable and software. Good condition. Works fine/checked out on air with good audio report. \$50

**Auttek RF-1 antenna analyzer.** With calibration resistors and instructions. Very good condition. Works/verified on an antenna system. \$50

**Lafayette 99-2511 field strength meter.** With antenna. Good condition. \$5

**Optek SWR/Power/field strength meter.** 1.7 - 150 MHz. 10/100 Watts. Very good condition. \$20

**Amber 8040 watt meter/SWR indicator/field strength meter.** 100 watts. No manual. Very good condition. \$10

**EF Johnson "Antenna Mate" 250-0719-001 antenna tuner with SWR meter.** Made for CB band but should work great for 10 M QRP rigs. Max power rating is 15 watts. No manual. Very good condition. \$25

**Palomar Electronics Corp. 500 SWR, power meter, and AM monitor.** Power meter ranges 10/100/1000 watts. No manual. Very good condition. \$30

**Heathkit AC power supply, IPA-5280-1.** Rare Vintage/Collectible unassembled kit! +/- 9 volts. Dual supply with 100 ma max output each supply. Designed for use with other Heathkit instrumentation. Appears that box was never unpacked – even manual in original packing position. Minimum bid to be determined.

If other items are donated prior to the meeting, they will be added to the auction. Also, be sure to look for other ham related items in the yard sale.

The following CB radios will be available in the general yard sale....

**Kris XL-50 AM CB radio.** With mic. Good condition. Appears to work. This is listed as a rare Vintage/Collectable on eBay. \$30

**Realistic TRC-440 AM CB radio.** With mic. Good condition. Appears to work. \$15

**Radio Shack TRC-446 Mobile AM CB radio.** No mic. With power cord and manual. Powers up but working status unknown. Cosmetically in very good condition. \$10

**Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC)  
2nd Annual June 2013 "Radio Run"**

Purpose:

RARC wants to encourage ALL amateur radio operators to be MORE active on ANY band, frequency, or mode! Even if you are not (yet) a licensed amateur radio operator, you can still participate!

Rules:

1. You must make at least 1 (one) QSO each day of the month of June
2. You must operate on an Amateur Band/Frequency
3. You must generate RF on an Amateur Band/Frequency at your station
4. If you are NOT a licensed Amateur Radio Operator you must listen to an Amateur Band/Frequency using an RF receiver
5. Not Allowed (QSO does not count)
  - a. DV-Dongle (the blue model)
  - b. IRLP using your phone
  - c. Echolink, etc.
  - d. No "radio-reference.com" or internet based radio monitoring sites for listening
  - e. Remember, if you don't generate or receive Amateur Band/Frequency RF, the QSO does not count!

We're going to use the honor system for keeping track of all who complete the "Radio Run"! (Be honest – which is a pretty good policy anyway ☺ )

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)
  - a. Name (optional)
  - b. E-Mail Address and/or Telephone Number (optional)
  - c. If you kept track of your contacts, the # of contacts you made during the month of June, 2013 (optional)

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

Contact Information (e-mail is preferred)

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

p.s. I respond to every e-mail. If you don't receive a response to your e-mail back within 24 hours, please double check the e-mail address and resend your e-mail or CALL ME :)

**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 ad.**

**For Free:** Crank-up type hospital bed in good shape. Everything except the mattress! Contact Tom Ebert , (804) 590-1475

**Thought for the Day**

If everything is going your way, you are probably heading in the wrong direction.

**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>
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