



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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

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August 2013

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**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, August 9th 2013, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

**PROGRAM:** D-Star - Network, Routing and the Internet Gateway Presentation & Q&A Forum by Jim Bates, KJ4WLH

### Coming Events:

**August Meeting,** August 9, 7:00 PM.

**VE Testing Session,** September 14th, 2013 9:am at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

### Public Service:

The annual Step Out To Fight Diabetes walkathon is being held on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at St Mary's Hospital.

Please mark your calendar and contact Roy Schultz, KI4MCX.

### 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

Jim Bates was licensed in 2010 and holds an Extra class license. His interest in electronics and communications started when he was a young boy when he received an AM radio kit as a Christmas gift. Jim spent hours at night, instead of sleeping, listening to AM stations hundreds of miles away - always wondering how his AM radio worked without using batteries.

Jim has worked in the Information Technology field for more than 25 years. He currently volunteers for the Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) as a director; is President of the Metropolitan Repeater Association (MRA - 145.430 repeater); and serves on the RARC Repeater committee - supporting the D-Star Gateway and most things Internet related.

Jim has been married for more than 22 years and has 3 children. Jim is an active member of the community and has participated in Cub and Boy Scouts for more than 12 years. He is also

a Deacon at Sycamore Presbyterian Church (SPC).

In Jim's non-existent spare time, he enjoys working 6m JT65, rag chewing on the 900 repeater, and learning how to "correctly" reassemble projects that he's dis-assembled.

He's also working on a 33cm to 70cm crossband repeater for his QTH.

Jim can be contacted by e-mail at [jl Bates4@gmail.com](mailto:jl Bates4@gmail.com), telephone at (804) 592-1068, or best by calling KJ4WLH over the air!

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### From the Prez

While I was a Boy Scout for a few years, I confess that I did not go too far with attaining the upper rankings of scouting which consists of earning various merit badges. Of course, I did get the radio merit badge, which was pretty easy since I had a general class amateur license at the time.

Between July 14-24, some 40,000 Scouts descended on Mount Hope, West Virginia for the 2013 National Jamboree. Amateur radio was an important part of this event. And some RARC members participated by making contacts with K2BSA. I know some of our members worked the Jamboree stations on HF, but I heard many contacts on D Star because we linked our UHF repeater module to the reflector connected to the D Star repeater that Icom donated for the Jamboree. From what I gleaned, there were many times when HF propagation was poor, but D Star worked quite well, dependent mostly on AT&T's internet connection. I can imagine the load with 40,000 smartphones sharing one internet connection.

I was driving to South Carolina and back on two days of the Jamboree, so I was in the car for quite a while. It seemed like every D Star repeater that I heard had one module linked to the Jamboree reflector. It was pretty cool to hear our members working the Scouts in West Virginia as I drove around Columbia, South Carolina. It was obvious from the conversations that the Scouts and the ham Scout leaders appreciated the willingness of our members and others to engage in a short

QSO with Scouts, many of whom were hopefully bitten by the radio bug and will continue on with our hobby.

Our Club has a tradition of participating in the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air, an annual event every October where Scouts from all over the world communicate via ham radio. We are planning to participate in that event again this year. See the announcement in this newsletter on page 4 of how you can participate.

Jim Bates has prepared an excellent program on D Star for the August meeting. Even if you don't currently use this mode, I guarantee you will find the technology fascinating and enjoy the live demonstration.

73, Win

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## July Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: July 12, 2013

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Presiding Officers: Win Grant, WA4SSG, President; Pete Fundinger, AA4PF, Vice President; Richard Arnold, WA4FEH, Treasurer; and Maylon Pearman, KG4RPQ, Secretary

Win opened the meeting by welcoming two guests, Steve Markoski and Tim Ferrel, KJ4NPB.

The June minutes were approved.

Richard Arnold gave the Treasurer report for June.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU reported that registration for school classes will start Tuesday after Labor Day, September 3. Classes will be for Technician, General and Extra license preparation. Also Antenna modeling and Electronics for hams will be taught. Bruce also reported on the National Scout Jamboree July 15 -24. More information is on the club website.

Win called on volunteers for refreshments for the August meeting.

Duane Brankley, KK4JNN announced he has upgraded to general.

Jim Bates, KJ4WLH asked for anyone who participated in the Annual June Radio Run to contact him.

Win announced the programs planned for the next few months. There will be a D-star talk and a project that each member will build for themselves.

Volunteers are needed to provide communications for Richmond Area Bicycling Association, Heart of Va. Ride on September 14, 2013.

The meeting ended and a program followed on digital modes given by Wray Dudley, AB4SF and Jim Bates KJ4WLH.

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## RARC VE News

September's Testing session will be on the 14th at the Bon Air United Methodist Church at 9:00am.

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 804-201-1898 has information on his website <http://w4pw.org>.

## Nets

RARC has the first and only D-STAR digital repeater in the area. 147.255 (+) and 443.7125 (+). In addition to our Wednesday local D Star net (below), we link the D Star VHF module for the National Capital Region D Star Net on Wednesday nights at 9pm. On Tuesday nights at 9pm, we link our UHF module to the North Carolina D Star Net, and

on Sunday nights at 9pm to the South Eastern D Star Weather Net.

The Club sponsors several local 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?

August

September – Grayle Hunley

October - Dave Thomas

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### Save the Date!

The RARC Annual Banquet will be held on Friday, November 8, 2013. We have secured a new venue this year that will have plenty of space for everyone. We also have a very special guest speaker lined up. Details to follow.

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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 Also, members or prospective members needing transportation to the RARC meetings: Please contact Pete Fundinger at 804-639-5573 to arrange a ride for you. Pete will do his best to find someone near you or someone

who can pick you up on their way to the meeting.

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### This Month's Program Topic

D-Star - one term which conveys plenty of controversy! Is it evolutionary? Is it proprietary? Is it too expensive? Is D-Star a standard? Does it work? I mean, does it REALLY work?

Jim Bates will help dispel the myths and complexities of D-Star. We'll be discussing the D-Star network model, the D-Star vs. D-Plus linking models, and some technical aspects of how the Gateway performs its job. We'll be connected to the D-Star Gateway and can watch "real-time" logging of activity as well.

The importance of the RPT2 "G" settings will be described and hopefully will make some sense! Finally, if time permits - we might try configuring some HT's to use Call Sign "squellch" - much like PL/DCS does for FM repeaters today.

We'll have an open discussion and any (well, ALMOST any...) D-Star related question can be raised during the presentation. If you have SPECIFIC questions about D-Star, not about programming your radio, please e-mail them to Jim Bates before the meeting so he'll have an opportunity to properly consider the reply. [jlbbates4@gmail.com](mailto:jlbbates4@gmail.com)

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### Remember The Chili ??

Remember Grayle Hunley's fabulous chili from last year? This year he will be providing us with another treat for our taste buds in September. Stay tuned for details in the next newsletter and come to the September meeting hungry!

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In days of old, when men were bold  
and sideband not invented,  
the word was passed by pounding brass  
and all were quite contented .

. Author Unknown



## THE DISTRESS CALL

### From the 1969 ARRL "The Radio Amateurs Operating Manual"

The amateur distress call, QRRR, grew from the purpose of the first organized amateur emergency nets. They were set up in cities along the Pennsylvania Railroad to aid the "Pennsy" (and later other railroads) with train communications in the event of failure of the railroad telegraph landlines - which were frequent. The signal QRR came to be used to indicate that the calling station had railroad traffic related to some emergency. ARRL eventually adopted this call for use by any amateur who had distress traffic and later the call was changed to QRRR because of a conflict in definitions with the international Q signal QRR.

One of the first distress calls was CQD, coined by the Marconi Company about 1904 from the "general call" CQ and the letter D for distress." The main problem with CQD was that it was supposed to be used only by ships which subscribed to the Marconi radio system and ships of one system were discouraged from communicating with ships or shore stations of other, competing, companies. The problem got so bad that it was taken up in the international radio conference in 1906 where a new universal distress call was proposed.

The American delegation suggested the letters NC which were already recognized in the International Signal Code for Visual Signaling. The German delegation proposed its own SOE which was already in use on German ships as a general inquiry signal similar to CQ (which was then used only by the Marconi system). The British delegation, of course, wanted to stick to the Marconi signal CQD.

The convention found SOE acceptable except that the final E could easily be lost in QRN so the letter S was substituted, making it SOS. The convention decided that SOS should be

sent as a single code character with a sound unlike any other character, thus arresting the attention of anyone hearing it. So SOS was officially adopted, but CQD remained in use for some years, particularly aboard British ships.

It wasn't until 1912, after the Titanic disaster, that SOS became universal and the use of CQD gradually disappeared. Titanic radio operator Jack Phillips sent both CQD and SOS to be sure that there couldn't possibly be any misunderstanding.

### Mark your calendars!

What: BSA - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)  
When: October 19th from 08:00 - 16:00  
Where: Richmond International Raceway (RIC)  
Who? - You! That's who!

Links:

ARRL - <http://www.arrrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

Scouting - <http://www.scouting.org/JOTA.aspx>

The Heart of Virginia Council is holding their "Council Wide" 100th Anniversary on the weekend of October 18 - 20. The Scouting event, Jamboree on the Air, is also held that weekend. That means that approximately 5,000 scouts and their families will be camping and participating in all kinds of Scouting events over the weekend.

I need your help! If you'd like to talk with scouts about Amateur Radio, Operate a station, or just help with setup/take-down - I'd appreciate hearing from you! The tentative plan is to set up a station on Saturday morning and run through the mid afternoon.

If you are interested in helping - in ANY way - please contact Jim Bates (KJ4WLH) at [jlbbates4@gmail.com](mailto:jlbbates4@gmail.com) and (804) 592-1068.

Thank you!

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Jim Bates  
mailto:[jlbbates4@gmail.com](mailto:jlbbates4@gmail.com)  
(804) 592-1068



### 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.**

**Wanted to Buy:** Power supply 13.8V @ 20 amps - Contact Herb Johansen KI4HWS @ 379-9530

**Wanted:** Elmer to assist with the set-up of an ICOM V8000 transceiver. Contact Herb Johansen KI4HWS @ 379-9530

**For Sale:** President HR 2600 Mobile Multi-Mode 10 Meter Transceiver. Good condition. Output power – CW 25 Watts; USB/LSB 25 Watts PEP; AM/FM 10 Watts. Includes microphone, power cord, and manual. Checked out on the RARC 10 M net with good audio report. Price \$100. Proceeds go to RARC. Contact Marshall Ervine at (804) 320-8629; [marshe73@verizon.net](mailto:marshe73@verizon.net)

Icom IC-V80 2 Meter HT. Good condition. Output power 0.5/2.5/5.5 Watts. Includes battery, drop-in charger, manual, and software with USB programming cable. Checked out on local ARES net with good audio report. Price \$50. Proceeds go to RARC. Contact Marshall Ervine at (804) 320-8629; [marshe73@verizon.net](mailto:marshe73@verizon.net)

**FOR SALE:** I still have the following equipment for sale. Prices are listed but make your best offer. Terms of sale are cash and equipment is sold as is. Call if you have any questions. Please cut and paste the url's given for items in your browser for more detailed information. Contact Jerry Williams KJ4IT at 804-357-2190 both voice and text. My e-mail is [kj4it.jw@gmail.com](mailto:kj4it.jw@gmail.com) .

### HF RADIO

**Yaesu FT-817** 5-watt QRP HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver and a **LDG Z-11** QRP HF Auto Tuner <http://www.ldgelectronics.com/c/252/products/7/30/3> . Transceiver and tuner checked ok. Comes with factory user guide, "Nifty User Guide", dc power cables and a hand microphone. **PRICE: \$550.00**

### MOBILES, PORTABLES and SCANNERS:

**ICOM IC-37A 220 MHz Transceiver:** Is in fair condition, powers up but needs work. Comes with a HM-23 DTMF mic and the owners manual but missing the brackets. **PRICE: \$20.00**

**YAESU FT-33R 220 Mhz Handheld:** Powers up seems to work but may need work. Have the wall wart charging transformer and a copied user manual. **PRICE: \$20.00**

**Radio Shack PRO-2045 Scanner** s/n 65001512 . The Radio Shack PRO-2045 200-Channel Weather Alert Home Scanner. (NOTE: This is not a trunked or Project 25 receiver.) Preliminary spec overview is at this link [http://support.radioshack.com/support\\_electronics/doc33/33681.htm](http://support.radioshack.com/support_electronics/doc33/33681.htm) and a complete download of the owners manual is at this link [http://support.radioshack.com/productinfo/DocumentResults.asp?sku\\_id=20-418&Name=Radio%20Scanners&Reuse=N](http://support.radioshack.com/productinfo/DocumentResults.asp?sku_id=20-418&Name=Radio%20Scanners&Reuse=N) **PRICE: \$75.00**

**ANTENNAS and RELATED ACCESSORIES**

**Ameritron Model RCS-8V Remote Antenna Switch:** Unit is brand new in the box – never used. HF thru VHF. **PRICE: \$135**

**SWAN Electronics SWR Power Meter Model WMM-200.** Frequency range 50 -150 MHz. Power rating 200 watts. Have the original manual. The unit is in its original box and looks like new. **PRICE: \$ 50.00**

**MFJ-260C** 300-watt dry dummy load. NEW IN BOX. **PRICE: \$30.00**

**MFJ-1661** Manual Screwdriver Antenna in like new condition although it will require a base mount. <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-1661> **PRICE: \$40.00**

**MFJ-1910** 33' Black fiberglass telescoping mast . **PRICE: \$40.00**  
<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-1910>

**AN/GRA-4 40' Guyed Antenna Mast (Military)** –The mast set appears complete with all sections, guys and guy ropes. Please refer to the following link [http://www.ontariosurplus.com/pdf/tm11\\_2651.pdf](http://www.ontariosurplus.com/pdf/tm11_2651.pdf) which is an example for setting up three AN/GRA-4 sets. Masts are in good condition (not bent). **PRICE: \$225.00**

**Tripod Supported Military Style Fiberglass Mast** approx 31' tall self-supporting similar to those at [www.goverticalusa.com](http://www.goverticalusa.com) . Comes with two guy rings all in a rubberized tote bag. In very good condition. Picture available on request. **PRICE: \$110.00**

**Computer Accessories**

**1-LOT of Tigertronics Inc. Signalink Sound Card Radio Interface Model SL-1 Revision-C; a Tiger Trak Model TM-1+ Programmable Tracking Module;** and a **TinyTrak 3 Plus**. Have the factory manuals but no software (readily available on the internet). **LOT PRICE: \$50.00**

**Thought For The Day**

Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.

73 de:

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