



THE RICHMOND HAM

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

October 2013

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, October 11th 2013, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

PROGRAM: An explanation of the STARS Communication System by the Virginia State Police Communications Manager John Agee.

Coming Events:

October Meeting, October 11th, 7:00 PM.

VE Testing Session, November 9th, 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 or phone 743-3899.

From the Prez

We're just a little over a month away from our annual banquet on Friday, November 8. Pete, AA4PF, has secured a great location with plenty of room for everyone. And we have an excellent speaker, Harry Dannals, W2HD, to entertain and inspire us. Please be sure to fill out a reservation form in advance and pay the Club \$15.00 for each person attending.

As I announced at the last meeting, we need someone to lead our participation in the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air on October 19 at Richmond International Raceway. While anyone can participate in JOTA from your home station, the local scouting organizations have a few thousand Scouts and families at the RIR facility on this day, and we have had a great response from the Scouts the past few years when we set up a station on this weekend at Camp Brady Saunders. Jim Bates, KJ4WLH, has headed things up recently, but will be out of the country this year, though I

would not be surprised to hear him on the D Star repeater from Norway. If you can lead our participation, please contact me or Jim.

Armand, WA1UQO, did a great job at the September meeting leading our project building program. I think this may have been a first time for some of those who assembled components and produced a finished product during the meeting. If you didn't get to build a Powerpole continuity and polarity tester or you want to build another one, I'll bring some more components to the October meeting and you can get what you need. A link to the instructions are on the Club website.

Progress on the 23cm D Star module continues. We have acquired most of the components and are looking for a time to assemble everything at the repeater site. We will be "rebuilding" the D Star repeater in a new rack which was required to accommodate all of the gear.

In my June column I wrote about my 2013 Dayton experience and in particular, my eyeball QSO with Saif, A71AM. I included a picture of Saif manning the Qatar Amateur Radio Society booth in the longer article on the Club website. A few weeks ago I heard Saif on 20 meters again, and we chatted about our Dayton visit. I emailed him a link to the article on our Club website. He responded a few days later to say that he had printed out the article from our website and posted a copy in the Qatar Amateur Radio Society station. I'm told the Qatar club welcomes hams from other countries who want to operate their station. If you get to Doha, be sure to look for the RARC article.

73, Win

September Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: September 13, 2013

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Presiding Officers: Win Grant, WA4SSG,
President

Win opened the meeting by extending a special "thank you" to Grayle Hunley for the

substantial and open buffet of Italian Sausage and refreshments.

The meeting was continued welcoming guests; Mark Kitchen KK4PNC, Bob Fierro KG4ZIK, Lewis E Williams, III KK4SRF, Woody Gentry W4CZV, and Malcolm Lyle KR4PC.

Win read the Treasurer's report as submitted by Richard Arnold, Treasurer. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August meeting, was seconded, and passed by majority vote.

Win read the School Report as submitted by Bruce MacAlister. There are four students in the Technician Class and 9 students in the "Electronics For Hams" class.

Announcements for license upgrades/call sign changes was requested, no one spoke up. Joe Palsa, W3WRY, reported on ARES.

Chesterfield County will presenting Survivor Day Workshop on Sept 21st. (For more info go to www.survivorday.com). ARES will be at the workshop to represent the use of Amateur Radio in emergencies. VHF and HF capabilities will be demonstrated to the general public as well as members of CERT.

Roy Shultz KI4MCX, gave the Public Service announcements. The Heart of Virginia Bike Festival 2013 is Saturday September 14th with George Bean organizing. The annual Diabetes Foundation's "Step Out To Fight Diabetes" walkathon is being held on Saturday, October 12, 2013. It begins and ends on the front lawn of St Mary's Hospital on Monument Avenue. To help out, contact Roy at KI4MCX@arrl.net.

Win reminded members that reservation forms for the upcoming annual banquet were on the back table. There is plenty of room this year so bring a guest or two if you'd like. Please sign up and pay \$15.00 in advance per reservation. The Annual Banquet will be held on Nov 8th. The guest speaker will be W2HD, Harry Dannals. He is President Emeritus of ARRL and President Emeritus of Quarter Century Wireless Association.

October is our new "Dues Year." It was suggested that members could include their dues in with their banquet reservation if they were planning to attend. Reservation forms and payment for the banquet need to be brought to the October Membership meeting, at least received by Richard Arnold then. Members can send their banquet reservation to the address on the web site. There will be elevator access at the banquet location.

Win announced the upcoming Boy Scouts event submitted by Jim Bates KJ4WLH, BSA Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is the third weekend of October. Jim is unable to coordinate it this year as he has in the past,

due to business travel, and is looking for help to organize this event. Please contact Win or Jim if you can help. (jlbates4@gmail.com)

Ron Chase KD4XA gave the nominating committee report. Bylaws state that the nominating committee be appointed by the President to come up with a slate of 9 for the Board of Directors, which includes 4 Officers and Registered Agent. Membership will vote on a slate of Officers at the October meeting. Board members will be installed at the November meeting.

Nominating Committee members are: David Thomas WD3O, Marshall Ervine N4XBP, and Chairman: Ron Chase KD4XA

Thanks to Maylon Pearman KG4RPQ for agreeing to continue as Secretary.

One Director position is automatically filled by the Past President, so Win will be assuming that role.

The incoming President appoints a Director of his choosing. It was asked that the name of the appointed Director be announced prior to the November meeting to ensure inclusion in the dinner program.

Thanks to Marshall Ervine N4XBP for agreeing to continue as Registered Agent.

Thanks to Richard Arnold WA4FEH for agreeing to continue as Treasurer.

The proposed slate of Board of Directors is: President - Dr. Joe Palsa K3WRY,

Vice President - David Robinson KJ4LHP

Elected Director - Allan Johnson WA3J,

Elected Director - Austin Thomas N4CVA

Win extended thanks to the Nominating Committee for their hard work in bringing this slate to the membership. Sincere thanks was also extended to the nominees for their willingness to serve.

A motion to accept the nominations was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.

Win asked for additional nominations from the floor. None offered.

A motion to close the nominations was made, seconded. Discussion was invited. None responded. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

It was noted that the installation of Austin Thomas N4CVA as Elected Director may make Austin the youngest elected officer in the club's history.

Old business invited. None offered.

New business invited. Pete Fundinger AA4PF offered that the speaker for October is Mr.

Agee, Communications Manager for the Virginia State Police, will speak on the STARS Communications System. Allan Johnson WA3J offered that license testing is tomorrow morning, 9-14-13, Saturday Morning 9AM at

the Church. \$15.00. Dr. Joe Palsa K3WRY offered news about the HamFest at Virginia Beach, tomorrow, 9-14-13 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Also, continued Dr. Palsa, representatives of the Central Virginia Contest Club had participated in the joint RARC/RATS field day, were impressed, and have offered to join the effort as operators. The benefits of additional experienced operators, increased contacts, and more great minds participating in an emergency exercise was discussed and affirmed. The idea has been accepted by RATS and Joe put this before the membership for comment.

Win invited, and the membership offered, a motion to invite the Central Virginia Contest Club to participate with RARC and RATS in future Field Day events. The motion was seconded and passed by majority vote. Dr. Palsa expressed gratitude for the motion in behalf of the Central Virginia Contest Club. Pete Fundinger offered that it would nice if all three clubs displayed their respective banners at Field Day.

Allan Johnson offered that increased activity with three clubs participating would create more interest from the general public and the local press if adequate advanced notice is given.

Win offered that Rob Thomas is our Public Information Officer.

Dan Bryant offered that the Henrico ARES team is having a table set up at Henrico's Survivor Day at the Henrico Training Center at Parham and Schrader Roads Saturday Morning October 21st.

Grayle Hunley offer that membership should come hungry to the January meeting as his chili will be part of the refreshments.

A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed by majority vote. The program was given by Armand Hamel WA1UQO, where members were invited to build a polarity tester for Anderson Powerpole™ connections.

(Special thanks to Dan Bryant for taking the meeting notes this month!)

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/ 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 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 VHF 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.
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Refreshment Schedule

We currently have the following commitments for upcoming meeting refreshments. With the banquet in November and holiday party in December, please consider taking a month in 2014. If just ten members would take one month, we will have next year covered.
October - Dave Thomas

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.

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.arrl.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 jl Bates4@gmail.com and (804) 592-1068.
Thank you!



RARC Banquet Reservation

Please bring your Banquet reservation to the October meeting or mail it to RARC P.O. Box 35279 Richmond, VA 23535 along with \$15 payment for each person attending.

Portable HF Operation at Work By Jim Bates

There just isn't enough time in a day. Well, at my current "season" of life there isn't... I remember being bored as a kid; just too much time and nothing to do. Add a few years and I guess I yearn nostalgically for those days, seemingly long past.

I am always looking for opportunities to "play radio". One of the best parts of the Amateur Radio hobby is that it "fits" into my lifestyle so well. Some of the activities are easy to incorporate ham radio into: Boy Scouts, hosting Geek-A-Thons (computer gaming parties) for my church youth, driving to & from work, and occasionally working from home. However, I'm constantly looking for ways to use "wasted" time - like lunch hours at work - and see what I can do with them.

I know a few hams who really like working HF mobile. While I admire their ability, I know that I can barely keep the wheels between the lines when operating my mobile FM rigs :) For me, I think I can give "Portable" a good shot but I'll pass on "Mobile" for the time being. Who knows, perhaps in a few years you'll read an article about how I LOVE operating Mobile. I do own a Buddipole and it works pretty well. There are a couple of downsides to it however, it takes some time to get assembled and adjusted to resonance. The problem is I have a little less than an hour. Diamond makes a series of HF antennas with a UHF connector,

about 90" high, and it disassembles into 2 parts. There are models for 15, 20, 40, and 80 meters. I picked up the 20m antenna: HF20CL and a UHF mag mount for my trial run. I packed up all of my gear: Icom IC-706MKIIG, cw key, antenna tuner, rigrunner power strip, Diamond antenna, and Comet mag mount. It all fits nicely into my trunk. I did realize that I needed to purchase a Pelican case for the Icom; so I placed a quick order with Amazon. I hope I'll have the Icom and cw key nice stowed by the time this article is published.

Drove to work and passed the time while waiting for lunch. That's kinda hard to do when you don't really want to be working; I'd have much rather been playing. Lunch time finally arrived and I made my way out to my car. Now, I have to admit, I AM a little bit embarrassed by all the antennas on my Camry already. I made sure my car was WAYYY in the back of the parking lot.

I gathered all my gear, assembled my antenna and placed it dead center on the top of the roof and hopped inside the car. Adjusted the antenna tuner and was ready to go. Set my rig for 20m USB and started scanning around for anyone calling CQ. NT8L was calling and I gave him a quick "NT8L KJ4WLH" - he responded back and we had a 15 minute QSO. Very good fun. I was running about 50 watts and the report was about S7/S8. I copied NT8L about S3/S4 - but didn't have any issues copying him at all.

The short summary is this: You CAN find a way to operate HF without spending a ton of \$\$.

True, I couldn't hear too many folks and I'm sure there was activity - but I still made a successful QSO. For about \$75, you can try HF at work, in your car, and at lunch to boot!

73 de KJ4WLH

p.s. The company security guard did walk over and "say hello." The antenna on the car, as well as my office being located right next to the Newport News/Williamsburg airport, must have made quite the impression on the security staff.

You Never Know!

You never know where the RARC logo might be found. Thanks to Jim Bates, KJ4WLH it can be found in this month's edition of the Midlothian High School Newspaper. Check out the Tech Tools heading at www.midloscoop.com. Would be great to see some young faces at our next meeting or Tech Class!

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.



The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at 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

FOR SALE: I still have the following equipment for sale. Price is listed but make your best offer. Terms of sale are cash and equipment is sold as is. Call if you have any questions. Contact Jerry Williams KJ4IT at 804-357-2190 both voice and text. My e-mail is kj4it.jw@gmail.com.

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**

Thought For The Day

The older you get, the better you realize you were.

73 de:

Win Grant	WA4SSG	PRESIDENT	(804) 272-9695	wa4ssg@arrl.net
Pete Fundinger	AA4PF	VICE-PRESIDENT	(804) 639-5573	aa4pf@verizon.net
Maylon Pearman	KG4RPQ	SECRETARY		
Richard Arnold	WA4FEH	TREASURER		