



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will hold its annual banquet Friday, November 8th 2013, 7:00 PM, at King's Korner Restaurant, 7511 Airfield Drive, Chesterfield, VA at the Chesterfield Airport.

**PROGRAM:** The guest speaker will be W2HD, Harry Dannals. He is President Emeritus of ARRL and President Emeritus of Quarter Century Wireless Association. Installation of Club Officers and Board of Directors

### Coming Events:

**November Meeting,** November 8th, 7:00 PM.

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

**December Meeting,** December 13, 7:00 PM. Annual Christmas gathering – bring your favorite finger food or dessert.

### 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

This is column number 23 for me and my last as president. Fortunately, the term in office ran out at just about the same time as the ideas for something to write about. I'll offer a few observations on our Club that I gleaned as president which may be useful to my successors.

Committees are the engines that get things done. Not everyone is or should be interested in every aspect of the Club. Even within our niche hobby, there are many special interests such as DX, contests, digital modes, etc. The same is true of the Club at large. Our radio school and D Star repeater are our signature programs, and each has a core group of members who pitch in to make these programs successful.

I was initially, say for the first 18 months of my terms, nervous about the lack of

volunteers when we needed members to staff projects such as Field Day, Frostfest, the yard sale, etc. But then I realized that while members are reluctant to volunteer and commit, we generally had enough people show up to participate, even if we didn't know who was participating in advance. We can make things easier for Joe, K3WRY, the new president, if we are willing to commit to helping with specific projects occasionally.

There is a wealth of talent in our membership. I am still amazed at the expertise that some of our members possess. We have some very modest folks who don't talk about their accomplishments and skills, but we are blessed with some real experts among our members.

After 52 years of enjoying our hobby, I still get excited about things that I just can't explain to someone who is not a ham operator. When I worked Indonesia for the first time in last weekend's CQ Worldwide DX Contest, I didn't bother to tell my wife. I knew she would not understand. But I emailed my friend Wray, AB4SF, who completely understood.

There are many exciting times ahead for the Club. We have an ad hoc committee working on plans for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2016. Hopefully we can find ways to share the excitement we derive from our hobby with others who will continue the tradition. Thanks for all the help and support these past two years.

73  
Win

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### 2014 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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### October Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: October 11, 2013

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Presiding Officers: Win Grant, WA4SSG, President; Pete Fundinger, Vice President; Richard Arnold, WA4FEH, Treasurer; and Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU substituting for Maylon Pearman, KG4RPQ, Secretary

The meeting was opened by Win, president.

Minutes approved.

Richard, Treasurer, reported September income \$1,160, expenditures \$1,901.43, ending balance of \$5,580.52.

Application from Robert J Fierro, MD, KG4ZIK, Technician class; motion to accept, voted in.

Win, reminded everyone of Banquet in November, forms at the back.

Bruce MacAlister reported on the school, 4 Technician, 9 Electronics for Hams.

Joe Palsa, K3WRY. reported on ARES SAT in Chesterfield.

Dave Thomas, KB4IQT, provided food and got applause.

Roy Schultz, KI4MCX, pointed out diabetes walk tomorrow (Saturday, October 12) at St Mary's. Need handheld, good shoes, and rain gear. "No other event this year that I am aware," said Roy.

Win called for the election based on last month's nominations. Marshall Ervine, N4XBP, moved, Dave Thomas seconded, approved unanimously:

- President – Joe Palsa K3WRY,
- Vice President – David Robinson KJ4LHP
- Elected Director – Allan Johnson WA3J,
- Elected Director – Austin Thomas N4CVA

Win brought spare parts to use in building the Anderson Powerpole® tester.

Allan Johnson, WA3J, Saturday November 9th exams

Moved to adjourned business meeting.

Pete Fundinger, AA4PF, introduced speaker, chief engineer of the state police communications division. He brought hardened PCs to show. He described the operation.

Submitted by Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU.

(Thanks Bruce for filling in this month)

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### RARC VE News

November's Testing session will be on the 9th 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 (+ 600), 443.7125 (+ 5) and now 1284.0000 (-20). 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](http://www.rarclub.net).
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### 2014 Refreshment Schedule

The refreshment schedule for 2014 is wide open! Consider signing up for your favorite month. The entire year can be covered by only ten volunteers. Let's see some new contributors!!

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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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### D Star Repeater Update

On October 28, 2013, we turned on our 1.2 GHz D Star repeater module. As a result of an Icom price incentive and a generous contribution from a Club member, the board approved adding the third digital voice module to our existing repeater. Mike Owens, K4RKO, and I spent two days moving the repeater gear to a new rack, installing a

new antenna and duplexer and programming the controller.

We used the opportunity to do a little clean up as part of the installation. All of the multiple jumpers in the rack between the RF decks, duplexers, pre-amps and front end filters are now Heliax which is far superior to coax in terms of reducing the possibility of desense.

On October 30, we held our first Wednesday night D Star net with all three of our D Star repeaters linked together as members checked in from around the state on three bands: 147.255 MHz; 443.7125 MHz and 1284.0000 MHz. We are the fifth D Star repeater in Virginia to deploy the 1.2 GHz module.

We ran into a little snag at one point when reconnecting some of the network cables that allow the repeaters to connect to the D Star internet Gateway. Gateway administrator Jim Bates, KJ4WLH, was in the UK, but instantly answered my emailed plea for help by calling me on Skype while he was remotely logged into our server and able to tell me when I finally had things reconnected correctly. Talk about remote tech support! Jim noticed that our server had been running for a year without a hiccup or a reboot. That's reliability.

We have over 60 folks registered as users of our D Star gateway, and others who registered before we installed our gateway, so the interest in D Star continues to grow. Win - WA4SSG

### D-Star Antennas and Repeater





## THE PROSIGNS

Many of the expressions and procedure signals still in use in radiotelegraph had their origins in the early days of the landline telegraph - long before Marconi sent his letter "S" across the Atlantic. In sending formal messages by CW, the first thing a beginner hears is "don't send punctuation. Separate the parts of the address from each other with the prosign "AA". This is ironic, because in the American Morse Code the sound didahdidah is a comma and was doubtless the origin of our prosign. Originally, a correctly addressed letter was punctuated with commas following the name and the street address, each of which was (and still is) on a separate line although the commas have been dropped, even in mail addresses on letters. The comma was transmitted by Morse operators and thus, AA came to mean that the receiving operator should "drop down one line" when sent after each part of the address and it is so defined in the operating manuals of the time. Our familiar prosign SK also had its origin in landline Morse. In the Western Union company's "92 code" used even before the American Civil War, the number 30 meant "the end. No more". It also meant "good night". It so happens that in Landline Morse, 30 is sent didididahdit daaah, the zero being a long dash. Run the 30 together and it has the same sound as SK. Where Did They Come From? The end-of-message signal, AR comes from the American Morse letters FN, meaning 'finish'. SK, from the American Morse 30, meaning half-past the hour, the end of an operator's shift. ES, for 'and' from the American Morse symbol for '&', used extensively in written English in earlier times. And when old-timers send a long dash for 'zero', they are actually sending the correct American Morse symbol. History casts a long shadow.



### Frostfest Tickets Available!

Frostfest will be here before you know it! Feb 1, 2014 is sneaking up. Earlybird tickets are available at [www.frostfest.com](http://www.frostfest.com)

### Procedural Signals (Prosigns) for Morse Code

- C Q - Calling any station (does any ham \*not\* know this one?)
- AR - over, end of message
- K - go, invite any station to transmit
- KN - 'X' go only, invite a specific station to transmit
- B K - invite receiving station to transmit
- R - all received OK
- AS - please stand by
- SK - end of contact (sent before call)
- C L - going off the air (clear)

### Visiting a Denmark Radio Club

Work provides some occasional travel opportunities for me; sometimes to Canada, other times to the UK, and Denmark. While visiting Denmark in the spring of 2013, I met a co-worker named Kaj Kaalund (OZ1EDD). We had a few moments to chat about Ham Radio during lunch, however, it wasn't nearly long enough to get to know each other and really talk about radio stuff. We agreed that next time I'd be in Denmark, we'd spend more time together. Last week, I was able to get that "time together!"

Kaj is a member of the OZ7SKB Radio Club, <http://www.oz7skb.dk/>, and was kind enough to invite me to his home for dinner and then attend the club meeting afterwards. It was a very gracious offer and I, of course, accepted!

The work day wound down and it was finally time to meet up. You know, it's kinda strange, I don't really know Kaj other than he's a ham that works for the same company. Ham radio bridged a lot of culture gaps and made it easy for us to have conversations that might never have otherwise taken place!

Kaj drove me to his QTH and we enjoyed talking about some basics; what the license exams are like in each country; what each other's favorite modes/bands/brands were. Once we arrived at Kaj's QTH, I immediately broke out the D-Star gear - I always travel with my DVAP and IC-92AD HT. Kaj got my laptop on his WiFi network, I linked up the DVAP to the W4FJ-B (our Richmond 70cm repeater) and gave a CQ. Fortunately, Win Grant (WA4SSG) was around and we were able to have a transatlantic QSO with D-Star! Kaj was very excited, he'd never used any D-Star equipment and was amazed at the voice quality and low network bandwidth. Once we finished talking with Win, Kaj's wife brought back some Danish open face sandwiches - apparently a classic Danish meal. A couple of sandwiches and a cold beer later; we're ready to head out to Kaj's shack and play some radio. Kaj showed me his radio gear and was asking a little bit about PSK-31 and Ham Radio Deluxe!

Kaj and I got his PSK-31 setup running well. It was really interesting watching the PSK-31 waterfall - I'm used to the same DX countries showing up at my QTH; it was a very different set of call signs showing up at Kaj's QTH. We chatted some more about HRD, HF and other radio topics and realized that it was time for the club meeting! It's amazing how fast time can fly by when you're really have a fun time!

I packed up my D-Star gear, laptop, and some QSL cards and we headed out to the club meeting. A short drive later, at speeds exceeding 130 KPH - which seemed like 800MPH to me; we arrived at a HUGE school - I mean ENORMOUS! Apparently, the

town had a single school for all grades. The club actually had a permanent location in the basement - which really means 1st floor, of the school. I couldn't believe what they had: 1 room for a library, 1 room for meals/snack/meeting, 1 room for testing/soldering/workbenches, and finally a radio room with radio stations! All for free, with Internet access and as much power as they could consume! Kaj introduced me to the members of the club; there are about 8 - 10 members who usually attend the weekly (yes, that's right - WEEKLY!) club meetings. They each spoke English very well, and it was quite easy to communicate. I was asked about my preferences, likes, dislikes and we all shared some good laughs together.

I brought out my D-Star equipment for the 2nd time in the evening, got set up and connected to the W4FJ-B repeater again. This time Wray Dudley (AB4SF) was around and was able to have a QSO with Ole (OZ1LCG) - Ole, is a HUGE DX contester. I mean he's REALLY into contesting. Do you remember the YouTube video of some hams singing songs while climbing towers: <http://youtu.be/5V9Qkd3dElw> or Google "Join us on the Airwaves"? That's Ole's good friend and DX chasing buddy (OZ1XJ). They're part of the same contesting club...

After a while, the club brought out some tasty cakes and we enjoyed a short time just sitting down at the table, chit-chatting, drinking coffee, and eating desert cakes. The conversations were all very interesting as each member politely introduced himself and shared a bit of his background.

The time grew late and it was finally time to call it a night. I thanked the club for their hospitality, shared and collected a few QSL cards, and said goodbye.

The club welcomed me back anytime I was in Denmark and we headed out. Kaj drove me back to my hotel, I thanked him for a wonderful evening and said goodbye.

I was a tiny bit nervous about meeting a whole group of strangers; in a country where English is not the primary language and not really knowing anyone too well. At the end of the evening, the love of ham radio and kinship of amateurs was strong and heartfelt! If you have the opportunity to visit ANY other club while traveling around - please give it some consideration - you might just find a new group of friends!

73 de KJ4WLH

### **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 sale:**

Icom IC 718 (w/dsp), Astron 20A pwr supply, Murch At 2000A ant tuner, West Mountain Rig blaster and interface cable and CAT interface & cable for computer control. All for \$500. Local pickup preferred. Please contact Jim Bates for details. [jl Bates4@gmail.com](mailto:jl Bates4@gmail.com) (804) 592-1068

**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)

**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](mailto: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**

You need only two tools. WD-40 and duct tape.  
If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40.  
If it moves and shouldn't, use the tape.

**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>		

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