



THE RICHMOND HAM

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

December 2013

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, December 13th 2013, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

PROGRAM: There will be a short business meeting followed by our annual holiday social. Please bring your favorite holiday finger foods or snacks to share.

Coming Events:

December Meeting, December 13th, 7:00 PM.

VE Testing Session, January 11th, 2014
9:am at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

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

Since this is my first---from the Prez---I am not going to try and be as eloquent as Win. However since it is the season, and I am not politically correct, here goes---May you and your families have a very Merry, Happy and Blessed Christmas as well as a safe New Year's holiday.

Well Hams do it again with a rescue of a hiker in AZ. While this hiker was a ham, it still goes to show the public service abilities of ham radio. Contest season is still in swing. For everyone, you should try it at least once, it really gets your adrenalin up and can provide you with many contacts in a short time for those seeking DX100 and other awards.

OK I am done rambling for now. A big thank you for voting and having confidence in my election, I will try and uphold the great name of RARC.

Dr Joe Palsa
k3wry

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

November Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Nov 8, 2013

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Place: King's Korner Restauant
Presiding Officers:

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

November meeting was the Annual Banquet for RARC.

Invocation was given by Tom Ebbert, KG4BIZ. After dinner Allan Johnson, WA3J gave recognition to the volunteer examiners past and present.

Speaker for the evening was Harry Dannals, W2HD, President Emeritus -American Radio Relay League

Win Grant introduced the incoming Officers for 2014:

President: Dr. Joe Palsa, K3WRY
Vice President: David Robinson, KJ4LHP
Secretary: Maylon Pearman, KG4RPQ
Treasurer: Richard Arnold, WA4FEH

New Directors:

Allan Johnson, WA3J
Austin Thomas, N4CVA
Tom Flippin, KD4CMK
Win Grant, WA4SSG

Door prize drawings were picked.

New President, Dr. Joe Palsa introduced himself and graciously thanked everyone.

The meeting was adjourned.



RARC VE News

January's Testing session will be on the 11th 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 (+ 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.

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!!

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.



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

Plans Announced to Update the Communications Act of 1934

The US House Communications and Technology Subcommittee has announced plans for a multi-year effort to examine and update the Communications Act of 1934, the overarching law under which the FCC functions. The subcommittee, part of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee, is chaired by Oregon Republican Greg Walden, W7EQI. Walden and Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Fred Upton of Michigan made the announcement December 3.

"Today we are launching a multi-year effort to examine our nation's communications laws and update them for the Internet era," Upton said in a news release. "The United States has been the global leader in innovation and growth of the Internet, but unfortunately, our communications laws have failed to keep pace."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, noted that the most recent significant update of the Communications Act was in 1996. "Under the leadership of Greg Walden, the subcommittee

and its staff are well equipped to take up the challenge," Sumner said. "The ARRL will be monitoring the work closely as it goes forward next year and beyond."

The plan was made public via Google Hangout, where the committee leaders were joined by former FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell, who said he was "delighted" to learn of the update plans. Upton explained that the process, to start in 2014, will involve a series of white papers and hearings focusing on what might be done "to improve the laws surrounding the communications marketplace as well as a robust conversation utilizing all platforms of digital media." He suggested a bill would be ready by 2015.

Walden said, "A lot has happened since the last update" and that the Communications Act is "now painfully out of date." He pointed out that the Act, drafted during the Great Depression, was last updated "when 56 kilobits per second via dial-up modem was state of the art."

Upton said, "We must ensure that our laws make sense for today but are also ready for the innovations of tomorrow."

Walden said he wants to open the discussion to input from everyone. Interested parties may follow the plan's progress via Twitter. "It's important for people to have an opportunity to weigh in," he said. "This is really a public process to get better public policy."

From ARRL News

A New Radio – For Free!

About five years ago when I got back into HF, I decided it was time to upgrade the Icom 751 that had served me well for over 20 years. A long time Icom fan, I settled on the Icom 7600, an excellent radio that was a combination of digital technology, but with enough knobs and buttons for someone who was not quite ready for the full SDR experience of a mouse and computer monitor.

The 7600 is a superb radio and a breeze to interface with a computer for things like Ham Radio Deluxe, N1MM's contest logger program and various digital mode programs. I was thoroughly pleased with the radio. But then I

was able to touch an Icom 7800 at Dayton a few years ago. It had even more knobs and buttons, and one thing that I really wanted: a second receiver. While the 7600 has a "Dual Watch" feature that allows you to simultaneously monitor two frequencies within one band, the 7800 has two identical receivers that operate completely independently.

So I was torn: the 7600 had technology that was 10 years newer, but the 7800, as Icom's flagship HF product, was still a dream radio, something I never seriously considered owning given the price of a new one. I began to see used 7800's show up on the internet for sale, many priced at about half of a new one. After 12 years and only a few minor software updates, it was looking like Icom might be planning to retire the 7800 in favor of a radical new SDR design. I sensed that a number of used 7800's were going up for sale before the big announcement that Icom was about to release a new flagship HF radio.

So somewhat fearful that I was about to buy an obsolete radio whose value would drop like a rock, I found a used 7800 that an SK had donated to his club in California. I figured that this former owner was not selling a "problem radio" so I purchased the used radio and waited almost two weeks for Fed Ex Ground to deliver the 90 pound box.

I've been thrilled with the radio for the past 18 months. I missed a few of the newer features that the 7600 had, but the dual receivers and overall build quality of the 7800 were so impressive that I accepted the lack of some of the 7600's newer technology.

To my utter surprise, and that of many other 7800 owners, Icom made two announcements in August: the first was a 30% price drop which seemed to confirm the end of life for the radio, but then an announcement of a new firmware update for the 7800 to be released before the end of 2013. A YouTube video showed screen shots (in English) of the radio

with the new firmware, but details were hard to glean.

Icom has definitely decided to continue production of this excellent radio, and there has been no announcement of something to replace it. For current owners, the version 3.0 firmware update was like Christmas a month early.

On November 28, the Icom 7800 Yahoo group lit up with a link to the download site for the version 3.0 firmware. Icom also took the rather unusual step of producing an entirely new user manual (235 pages) and a smaller manual just explaining the new features of the firmware update.

In just four megabytes of code, the new firmware adds a host of features: the ability to plug a mouse into the USB jack to control frequency by clicking on the spectrum scope; an audio scope display to view your transmitted audio and the receive audio; a digital voice recorder for both transmit and received signals; a waterfall display that is extremely helpful for PSK mode; major improvements to the noise reduction feature; improved remote control capability and a number of other refinements.

It's rather unusual when any vendor releases a free update that is anything more than a bug fix. Icom's 7800 firmware update with so many new features has earned it a lot of good will from 7800 owners. Of course, the 7600 and 7700 owners are now asking: where is our firmware update? And the owners of a certain high end SDR product are probably asking why they have to pay \$199 per year for software updates and technical support. Competition is good for the consumer.

Win - WA4SSG

Wouff Hong

A Wouff Hong is a fictional tool used to "punish" Amateur Radio operators, who demonstrate poor operating practices. Legend has it that the Wouff Hong was invented by Hiram Percy Maxim (founder of ARRL) under the pseudonym, "The Old Man," just as amateurs were getting back on the air after World War One. Early in 1919, "The Old Man" wrote in QST "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff Hong . . . 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 the Board voted that the Wouff Hong be framed and hung in the office of the Secretary of the League. On display at ARRL HQ today, the Wouff Hong is a constant reminder to Amateur Radio operators to be mindful of their operating etiquette.



The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at wa1uqo@arri.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 92AD & Accys

For Sale: All working, no DOA, nothing is perfect 10's but all are in excellent shape.

If you purchase a 92AD, I'll include shipping for the 92ad & every other option you purchase at the same time.

Shipping for individual items is \$5/each or \$10/max with a single purchase.

If you want to purchase item(s), please let me know which specific line item you are interested in purchasing.

Here's the list (prices are from HRO Nov 29, 2013):

- #1 - Icom IC-92AD with standard wall charger. \$470 new x 0.75 = \$350
- #2 - Icom IC-92AD with standard wall charger. \$470 new x 0.75 = \$350
- #3 - Icom HM-175GPS. \$199 new x 0.75 = \$150
- #4 - Icom HM-175GPS. \$199 new x 0.75 = \$150
- #5 - Icom RS-92 software and cable. \$79 new = \$50
- #6 - Icom BP-257 (AA battery pack). \$35 new x 0.75 = \$25
- #7 - Icom BP-257 (AA battery pack). \$35 new x 0.75 = \$25
- #8 - Icom BP-256 (Li-Ion battery pack). \$84 new x 0.75 = \$60
- #9 - Icom BP-256 (Li-Ion battery pack). \$84 new x 0.75 = \$60
- #10 - Icom BC-177 (Charger Stand). \$66 new x 0.75 = \$50
- #11 - Icom BC-177 (Charger Stand). \$66 new x 0.75 = \$50

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Thought For The Day

The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first.

73 de:

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