



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, February 14th 2014, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

**PROGRAM:** Gordon Miller, NQ4K will give a presentation about the Virginia QSO Party.

### Coming Events:

**February Meeting,** February 14th, 7:00 PM.

**VE Testing Session,** March 15th, 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](mailto:wa4feh@gmail.com) or phone 743-3899.

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### From the Prez

Well Frostfest is over. Once again, it was a great event during which hams from New York to South Carolina came to talk, meet in forums, sell equipment and parts at ham flea (what is a ham flea?) market tables. KJI and others had new equipment to sell as well as all kinds of accessories.

It was great to meet many hams you and I communicate with almost daily and see once a year or so. The hamfest season as well as contest season is upon us, so we need to participate in these events not only for our own enjoyment, but to show and encourage new hams how great our hobby is. Also, we must again look toward the ham EMCOMM portion of our hobby. Ham Radio offers something for everyone.

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

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### January 2014 RARC Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Jan. 10, 2014

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

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

Dr Palsa opened the meeting by introducing himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He asked for volunteers to handle refreshments at future meetings.

The minutes for December meeting were approved.

Guests were welcomed: Buddy Sprouse, N4CNU; Mark Babcock, KK4NVM; Lee Williams, KK4SRF; and Rich Carol.

Richard Arnold gave the December treasurer report. Two new applications for membership were received and voted on. Lee Williams, KK4SRF and Jim Banks, N4AGX. Welcome to the club!

Allan Johnson WA3J, reported on VEC testing. He announced the Board approved to hold a lottery at each months meeting to raise money

for the club. Tickets are available for one dollar each and the pot is to be split between the winner and the club.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU reported on the classes for spring 2014. See club website for details at <http://rarclub.net>.

Jim Bates, KJ4WLH reported on D-star repeater status.

Joe Palsa reported on the status of ARES and reminded everyone about the Va QSO party.

He mentioned the schedule for weekly club Nets:

Wed nights @ 7:00pm 10 meter net on 28.475 mhz SSB, net controller Tom Flippen, KD4CMK. Wed at 8:00 PM there is a D-star net on 147.255, net control Armand Hamel, WA1UQO. Sun Night @ 7:00 PM 6 meter net on 50.135 mhz SSB then @ 7:30 PM net moves to 52525mhz FM

Sun @ 8:15 PM there is a pkt-net on 145730.

(RARC website for more info)

Richard Arnold also reported that there is a small group that meets on 3860 mhz on Sun @ 8:00 PM

McNeer, K4YEF reported about the current law on amateur auto license plates. Requiring a permanently mounted radio in the vehicle, and trying to get changes made to the law to drop that requirement.

Jim Bates, KJ4WLH asked if anyone interested in 2 meter SSB to contact him.

FrostFest is scheduled for Feb 1, Saturday at RIRC.

Allan Johnson conducted the 50/50 drawing. Winner of the first 50/50 drawing is Jim Bates. (Thanks to Buck Vaughn for furnishing tickets for the lottery).

The meeting was adjourned and Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM was the speaker.

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**\*\*\*Fridays Meeting!!!\*\*\***

Will be in room 1101 not the Fellowship Hall as usual. It will be in the room by the gym that we use when we have our yard sale.

## RARC VE News

The March Testing session will be on the 15th 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.

### MRA

Interested in information or support of the **Metropolitan Repeater Association** (MRA)? Call Ed, KG4SNK, at 804-513-1947. The sole business of the MRA is to own, operate, and maintain the 145.430 repeater.

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### Tell those around you about the RARC license prep classes

This is how we get new hams into the hobby. Classes are important for most. A few can study on their own. Either way, make the offer to those you know with an interest in ham radio. This is also how you can get an upgrade (unless you're Extra class already).

Registration is Tuesday, February 25, 7 to 8pm. Those who want to fill out the registration in advance can get a copy from the club website <http://rarclub.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/RARC-SCHOOL-APPLICATION-Form-08-13.pdf>.

Classes start on Tuesday, March 04 and meet every Tuesday until May 06. Classes run from 7 to 9pm. The tuition is \$15. The manual costs \$40.

A Volunteer Examiner (VE) testing session will be offered soon after the last class on Saturday, May 10 at 9am. The testing fee is \$15.

All this information is available at <http://rarclub.net/>.



### **W1AW Centennial Year!**

A reminder that the FCC has authorized the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW to also use the call sign W100AW during 2014, the ARRL's centennial year.

Contacts made from the Maxim Memorial Station in Newington, from regional Centennial conventions, and during the IARU HF Championship will use W100AW, with portable designators as appropriate. The "W1AW WAS" operations throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states will use W1AW, not W100AW. Bulletins and code practice transmissions during 2014 also will still use W1AW. Contacts with W100AW are worth 100 points in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. Information on the ARRL Centennial QSO Party may be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>.

### **2m SSB Interest in the Richmond, VA area**

There are a few hams in the Richmond area who have expressed interest in using their 2m SSB gear on a more frequent basis. If you have an interest in participating or have ideas supporting this operation, please let me know.

Thank you!

Jim Bates

KJ4WLH

Mail to: [jl Bates4@gmail.com](mailto:jl Bates4@gmail.com)  
[\(804\) 592-1068](tel:8045921068)

### **We Spoke – ARRL Listened**

Last year I expressed my and the board's frustration at the ongoing problems of getting our D Star repeaters correctly listed in SERA's repeater directory database. We submitted our information correctly, but it never appeared correctly when the SERA Journal was published. Efforts to have the information corrected often resulted in new errors to our listing.

What was particularly frustrating was that we learned that the ARRL Repeater Directory used information from the various repeater coordinating organizations for the ARRL Repeater Directory, and their policy was to only accept information from the coordinating organizations.

At the 2013 Dayton Hamvention I mentioned this issue to ARRL President Kay Craigie. She had a rational explanation: ARRL was concerned that accepting information directly

from repeater owners would cause some people to bypass the coordination organizations and render their important contributions irrelevant. Repeater owners would assume that if their repeater appeared in the ARRL Directory, their frequency assignment was "legitimate" even if they had not coordinated the frequency. Good point, but it did not solve the problem.

On January 23, 2014, ARRL announced that they have created a special webpage for repeater owners and trustees to directly inform ARRL of errors or updated information in repeater listings, and this information would be used for the ARRL Repeater Directory and software products. ARRL emphasized that this new policy will not allow circumvention of repeater coordination organizations. They will not accept listings for new repeaters, only updated information for repeaters that are coordinated.

This is an excellent solution to the problem. I have no idea if our mention of this issue to Kay was the genesis for the solution, but apparently ARRL heard the message and came up with a solution. Thanks for listening ARRL and finding a solution that meets everyone's needs.

Win – WA4SSG

### **Virginia QSO Party**

The 2014 Virginia QSO Party will be held during the weekend of **15-16 March 2014**. For more information visit the website of the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club (SPARC). <http://www.qsl.net/sterling/>

### **\*\*\* 900 MHZ Fun! \*\*\***

900 MHz has continued to expand in the Richmond area with the addition of the W4RAT repeater in Midlothian. The new repeater will soon be linked with the downtown WA4FC repeater to provide wide area coverage. If you would like to get in on the fun, Kenwood TK-481 version 2 handheld radios are available for \$80 each. They are programmed like the TK-981 mobiles. Each radio comes with a battery, belt clip, antenna and KSC-24 rapid charger. Also a few 15 watt mobile radios are currently available. Contact Dave Meier N4MW [n4mw@msn.com](mailto:n4mw@msn.com) for details.

**You Might Be (and Probably Are) an Amateur Radio Operator, If:**

1. You have bought black electrical tape in ten packs.
2. You have stripped wire with your teeth.
3. You have told your child, "One day, all this will be yours," and he or she did not respond at all.
4. You would rather help another Ham friend to hook up new equipment, or to put up a new tower, than to mow your own lawn.
5. You have grabbed the wrong end of a hot soldering iron.
6. You have gotten an RF burn from your own antenna.
7. You have given out RST reports while you were on the telephone.
8. When the microphones or visual aids at a meeting did not work, you rushed up to the front to fix them.
9. You have told the XYL, when she noticed a new rig in the shack, "Why, that has been there for years."
10. You have set your watch to UTC only.
11. You have had to patch your roof after an antenna project fell onto it.
12. You have put a GPS tracker in the XYL's car or on the riding mower, just so you could watch it on APRS.
13. You have tapped out "CQ" or "HI" on the car horn in Morse Code to another Ham.
14. Your teenager has refused to ride in your car because it looks like a porcupine.
15. You know the Latitude, Longitude, and Elevation of your home QTH.
16. You have gone into the local Radio Shack store, and the store clerk has asked you where something is and how it works.
17. You have answered the telephone with your call sign, and then finished the conversation with "73" and your call sign.
18. You have looked for antennas, radios, and Morse Code in movies and television shows.
19. When you look at anything made of wire or metal tubing, you wonder if it could be used as an antenna.
20. Your call sign is listed on one or more of your hats, T-shirts, or other garments.
21. You regularly carry one or more tools in your pockets at any given time.
22. When any kinds of batteries go on sale, you get really excited.
23. When you look at a barbecue grill, it creates ideas about ground plane antennas.
24. You have designated all your friends as Hams or Non-Hams.
25. You have referred to your Ham friends by their call sign suffixes instead of their real names.
26. You have intentionally confused Non-Hams by telling them that the only things you talk about on the air are pork products.
27. You have intentionally scared Non-Hams with the word "RADIATION"!
28. You have looked at telephone poles and power line towers as potential antenna supports.
29. You have thought you were still hearing CW, SSB, or SSTV tones, even when your Ham radio was off.
30. Your Go-Bag has more clothes in it than your dresser does
31. You have a SKYWARN sticker on your back window.
32. Your significant other sits in the back seat, and your radios ride in the front.
33. Your neighbors wonder if you are a "Narc" (narcotics officer), a Spy, or a Federal Agent.
34. The cops pull you over because they want to see the inside of your car.

Author Unknown

**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.***

**Thought For The Day**

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

73 de:

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<b>Richard Arnold</b>	<b>WA4FEH</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>		

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