



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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May 2014

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**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, May 9th 2014, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

**PROGRAM:** SDR Radio, An Overview, by Rob Thomas, KC4NYK.

## Coming Events:

**May Meeting, May 9th, 7:00 PM.**

**RARC's annual yard sale on May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**VE Testing Session**, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 9:am at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

The Central Virginia 6 Meter SSB Net TailgateFest May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Scottish Rite Temple.

## Public Service:

Virginia Special Olympics June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Sign up at [http://k4mtk.com/?page\\_id=2](http://k4mtk.com/?page_id=2)

## 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

Here comes summer-----

Well, Easter holidays are over, and here comes Memorial Day. Winter is a memory and time is here for our annual auction, and planning for field day. This year is a first---a Richmond Tri-Club field day. I am expecting this to be a lot of fun as usual. In addition, we will have Allan and team available again allowing us to offer license testing which is open to all.

Can't forget Dayton, worlds' biggest Hamfest in a couple of weeks, and then Manassas Hamfest on June 8. We also can't forget Hurricane season is around the corner. Ham radio is a great hobby, but we need to remember that we can use our hobby to help people. Volunteering for ARES, Skywarn, and

other programs are vital to back up and support our professional public safety agencies. Chesterfield County offers CERT programs a couple of times each year. They get great response and enthusiastic people. We need the same enthusiasm from hams to volunteer for our support programs--if you volunteer--please commit to the program.

Dr Joe Palsa, K3WRY

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## April 2014 RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 11, 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 having everyone stand and say the pledge allegiance to the flag. He then introduced officers and board members.

Minutes were approved for the April 2014 meeting.

Bruce MacAlister reported on the RARC school. Dr Palsa welcomed guest Kris Proctor, KK4SIJ; John Galloway, KF4EVI; and Scott Galloway, AE4TC.

Richard Arnold gave the treasurer report for the month. No new memberships were reported.

Dr. Palsa talked about the column in the March newsletter on the nets and their schedule. He encouraged everyone to join in. On Tuesday night the Chesterfield ARES has a training net at 9:00 PM on the 147.360 repeater (no tone). Training is for one hour each week and includes ARRL info on what ARES is and does. May 10 at 9:00 AM there will be testing for ham exams at the church.

Marshall Ervine, N4XBP announced the Yard Sale is also May 10 at the church. They are looking for any household, yard items or ham gear. Please bring any items to the Friday night (May 9) meeting of RARC.

Jim Bates gave a demo of the new 145.430 repeater. (a mixed-mode analog / P25 repeater). For more information see the club's website [rarclub.net/repeaters](http://rarclub.net/repeaters) or contact Jim Bates, K8OI.

Tom Flippin, KD4CMK talked about 100 year anniversary of ham radio in Richmond plans with the Science Museum. A special event station is planned.

Grayle Hunley, KF4USV asked for help at meetings to bring snacks, drinks, coffee and etc.

Tom Flippin spoke on Chesterfield County CERT training. The County wants CERT members to get Ham radio training.

Dr Palsa announced Field Day will be held June 28 at Laurel Park off Hungary Springs. It will be a Tri-club event this year with the RATS and CVCC clubs. Operations start at 2:00 PM, set up at 10:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned. Following the meeting Kristafer Proctor, KK4SIJ gave a talk on tower safety and fall protection.

## 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.

Beginning on March 5, 2014, the RARC D Star Net which meets on Wednesday nights at 8:00pm will be accessible on our three D Star modules, all of which will be linked. You can use any of the three frequencies, 2 meters, 70 cm or 23 cm, and you should hear and be heard by everyone. If you participate in the net via DVAP or DV Dongle, you must link your device to Ref 007D rather than to any of our modules. Since the W4FJ stack will all be linked to Ref 007D, anyone linked to that reflector will be connected to the net.

The Club sponsors several local radio nets each week. Join in for the informative discussions and fun.

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### RARC VE News

The May Testing session will be on the 10th 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@arri.net](mailto:wa3j@arri.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.

|           |         |         |                 |
|-----------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| 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

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#### 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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#### This Months' Speaker and Meeting Topic!

This month's speaker, Rob Thomas, KC4NYK, has been a ham since getting his Novice license in 1986. After writing a Morse Code practice program for his then 6 year old son and when accompanying him for the Novice test, Rob took it also - and passed! With an Industrial Design degree from Pratt Institute, Rob has been blessed to have the opportunity to design everything from Tools for Stanley Tools to Watchbands for Timex and the original prototype of the IBM PC. After opening his own design firm in Richmond in 1980 Rob jumped feet first into the cyber world buying a Timex Sinclair microcomputer which led him to take computer science classes at VCU. His first commercial project resulted in his collaborating with software developers and Computer Based Training experts from UVA to create "CourseBuilder" the first PC-based authoring system which was bought by Houghton Mifflin and became the core of their Authoring package for 10 years. After a long career consulting for national ad agencies and Fortune 500 companies nationwide, founding two software companies, two furniture companies and mentoring young entrepreneurs, Rob can be found these days plugging away at various projects from monitoring beer temperatures on the iPhone to communicating worldwide on less than 5 watts (QRP) with Software Defined Radio. His program this week kicks off a 3 part series on Software Defined Radio and is intended to initiate hams into the arcane world of Linux, SDR software and a dizzying host of hardware from BeagleBones to Raspberry Pi's and DVB-T dongles to SoftRock, Soft66 and an

array of kits. A fully developed SD card image to make much of the grunt labor disappear is in the works and will be made available for download. Nevertheless an overview is a must to navigate this very fertile ground for exploration and will be the basis of this first presentation. Rob can be reached at [kc4nyk@rarcpio.net](mailto:kc4nyk@rarcpio.net) and projects viewed at [www.rarcpio.net](http://www.rarcpio.net)

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**RARC YARD SALE  
SATURDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2014  
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**BON AIR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

*Please help make this a great fund raiser  
for your club!*

**Bring donations of clean, usable items of any kind with you to the May 9<sup>th</sup> club meeting.** Suggestions include: household items, children's toys, books, pet items, computers, kitchen appliances, dishes, electronic items, sporting goods, decorations, crafts, tools, exercise equipment, plants, DVD/CDs, jewelry, watches, and furniture. Amateur radio related items also are needed (offered for sale only to licensed hams). Please note on electronic items if they work. Donated items that are not sold will be given to a local charity unless they are picked up prior to 1:00 PM on the day of the sale. **"First chance" sale available for club members and guests following the Friday meeting!**

This is a great time to remove some of the "clutter" from your life and support your club as the same time. Please remember that your donations help fund activities such as the repeater, meeting refreshments, the newsletter, etc., and help keep your club dues low.

**Volunteers are needed for the yard sale set-up on Friday evening during the club meeting and on Saturday for the sale and cleanup. We try to make this a fun event for all that participate. Any time you can spare will be most appreciated!**

Please contact Marshall Ervine, N4XBP, 320-8629, should you have any questions.

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#### **RARC's 2014 - 3rd Annual "Radio Run"**

What do the following callsigns have in common: K3WRY, KD4CMK, **KJ4WLH**, N4MW, N4ZRW, **W4LEW**, W4TY, **WA1UQO**, **WA3J**, and WA4SSG? They have each successfully completed a "Radio Run." The names in **BOLD**

have completed **BOTH** Annual Radio Run events!

Now, I know you're asking one simple question: How can I be as cool as those winners and get my name on the winner's list this year? That's a great question!

However, before you can begin thinking of the glory, fanfare, and unbelievable (some might say immeasurable!) esteem of being a Radio Run Winner, you must first know the rules!

IF (and that's a big IF!) you can make an RF contact every day for the month of June, you can also be included in the prestigious RARC Radio Run winner's list!

RARC created the Radio Run with a single purpose – encourage Hams to stop listening and start talking! Turn on your transceiver and press the PTT; or crank up the computer and get PSK contacts; or dust off that old key and tap out CQ CQ CQ – do something that generates Amateur Band RF!

Please see the rules in the RARC May newsletter for details or contact Jim Bates (K8OI) with any questions, comments, or concerns. We'd love to hear your successful Radio Run operation!

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### Grayle's Challenge!

As most of you know Grayle Hunley, KF4USV has often favored us with his culinary prowess for our meeting refreshments. His challenge to YOU is to step up to the plate and give us a taste of YOUR culinary abilities! He's sure many of you have that something special you'd like to share with us. So get your chef's hat on, your recipe books out and get your name on the refreshment list. Culinary celebrity awaits you!

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### Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) 3rd Annual - June 2014 "Radio Run"

#### Purpose:

RARC wants to encourage ALL amateur radio operators to be MORE active on ANY band, frequency, or mode! Even if you are not (yet) a licensed amateur radio operator, you can still participate!

#### Rules:

1. You must make at least 1 (one) QSO each day of the month of June
2. You must operate on an Amateur Band/Frequency

3. You must generate RF on an Amateur Band/Frequency at your station
4. If you are NOT a licensed Amateur Radio Operator you must listen to an Amateur Band/Frequency using an RF receiver
5. Not Allowed (QSO does not count)
  - a. DV-Dongle (the blue model)
  - b. IRLP using your phone
  - c. Echolink, etc.
  - d. No "radio-reference.com" or internet based radio monitoring sites for listening. Remember, if you don't generate or receive Amateur Band/Frequency RF, the QSO does not count.
6. We're going to use the honor system for keeping track of all who complete the "Radio Run"! (Be honest – which is a pretty good policy anyway ☺ )
7. IF you have made at least 1 (one) contact on each and every day of the month of June, please contact Jim Bates with the following information:
  - a. Call Sign (required)
  - b. Name (optional)
  - c. E-Mail Address and/or Telephone Number (optional)
  - d. If you kept track of your contacts, the # of contacts you made during the month of June, 2013 (optional)

If you have questions, comments, or concerns please contact Jim Bates or RARC.

Contact Information (e-mail is preferred)

Jim Bates (K8OI)

(804) 592-1068

[jl Bates4@gmail.com](mailto:jl Bates4@gmail.com)

p.s. I respond to every e-mail. If you don't receive a response to your e-mail back within 24 hours, please double check the e-mail address and resend your e-mail or CALL ME :)

## Skyline Drive – Revisited

Last year I made a trek to Beagle Gap overlook on the Skyline Drive, located just a few miles north of I-64 at Afton Mountain. Unfortunately, there was snow in the air and the National Park Ranger drove by and told me that Skyline Drive was being closed. That was very disappointing - BUT, that was LAST year!

I made my return visit to Beagle Gap, 2,500 ASL, on Saturday, April 12, 2014. This visit was MUCH nicer than a year ago; the temperature was 60°F with a nice breeze blowing - just a beautiful day.

I decided to try and work some different antennas this year: 6m dipole (a Buddipole Deluxe setup), 2m m2 HO Loop, and a 70cm m2 HO Loop. I also brought my Icom IC-7100. Gear from last year was 6m m2 3 element beam; 2m m2 7 element beam, 70cm Diamond beam, 23cm m2 beam, and my Icom IC-9100. This proved to be a VERY different operating environment.

Why change the gear and antennas? All those beams are just a big pain in the "rear" - I drive a Camry and while I can tow a small trailer, that doesn't mean that I really like the idea of driving down I-64 at 70+MPH with beams and other "implements of destruction" (references to Arlo Guthrie) bouncing around in the trailer. Instead of doing the trailer thing, the loops and buddipole are quite compact and easy to deploy.

I arrived at Beagle Gap around 09:30 and began unpacking the gear. I set up the buddipole as a horizontal dipole for 6m (50.125) and adjusted the whips to get a low SWR. Next, I got out the speaker stand and placed the 2 HO loops right on top. 15 minutes of installation and I was ready to get on the air.

I also brought a range of HTs. I had my Icom ID-51 (2m/70cm FM/DV), Kenwood TK-5210 (2m FM/P25), and EF Johnson 5100 (33cm FM/P25). I gave a CQ with a couple of watts and made contact with LOTS of folks during the day! I talked to Win Grant (WA4SSG) on 70cm with 100mw on D-Star - line of sight makes such a difference.

I hopped on 2m SSB and started calling CQ. I have to admit, I really like one particular function of the IC-7100 - voice memory and auto-calling - I recorded my CQ (CQ CQ CQ de K8OI/P), set the timer interval (10 seconds) and just started working the band. I received a contact in just a few minutes and had a great QSO with a ham from Charlottesville - I was

really pleased, the little m2 HO loop seemed to be doing its job!

After some time, I switched over to 6m and made quite a few contacts during the day. Towards the afternoon, 6m even opened up to Florida. I tried unsuccessfully for 15 minutes to make contact, but unfortunately, I was in the midst of packing up my gear and had to leave.

Driving home, I realized that I really missed the performance of the beams. The loops did an OK job, but I wasn't able to make some of the contacts I'd made last year and the 2 biggest differences were beams and the transceiver. There is always something to work on in the hobby!

73 de K8OI



**The SWAP SHOP**

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1uqo@arri.net](mailto: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.***

Free for dismantling and disposing - 120 ft. guyed tower. Brand unknown. Located in Woodbridge, VA. It's three legged. Condition: used a long time. Included is a Yaesu transceiver believed to be one of the better models. Contact AA4PF(@)verizon.net (804-639-5573) for details.

**Thought For The Day**

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

**73 de:**

|                       |               |                       |                |                          |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Dr. Joe Palsa</b>  | <b>K3WRY</b>  | <b>PRESIDENT</b>      | (804) 745-1267 | k3wry@aol.com            |
| <b>David Robinson</b> | <b>KJ4LHP</b> | <b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> | (804) 226-4295 | thedarbinian@comcast.net |
| <b>Maylon Pearman</b> | <b>KG4RPQ</b> | <b>SECRETARY</b>      |                |                          |
| <b>Richard Arnold</b> | <b>WA4FEH</b> | <b>TREASURER</b>      |                |                          |

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