



# THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

---

---

June 2014

---

---

**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, June 13th 2014, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

**PROGRAM:** SDR Radio, An Overview Part 2, by Rob Thomas, KC4NYK.

## Coming Events:

**June Meeting, June 13th, 7:00 PM.**

**Field Day, June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>** at Laurel Park off Hungary Springs Road.

**VE Testing Session**, July 12th, 2014 9:am at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

Also on Field Day June 28<sup>th</sup> At Laurel Park

**Public Service:** Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Bike MS Virginia Mike Hackett – [mhack61@yahoo.com](mailto:mhack61@yahoo.com)

Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Heart of Virginia Bike Festival [ai4vj@flareva.org](http://ai4vj@flareva.org)

Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Step Out to Fight Diabetes Roy Schultz – [ki4mcx@arrl.net](mailto:ki4mcx@arrl.net)

## 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.

---

---

## From the Prez

OK Folks, we are semi-officially into summer. Memorial Day has come and gone. We have already hit 90 degrees plus, and the mold and pollen counts are # \$ % # \$ % # %.

I hear on the repeaters, hams are working on antennas and Dayton has come and gone. Now here is hurricane season. OK, we have been lucky in many ways with storms bouncing around us last year. This year's predictions are "normal or slightly below" for the number of storms. PLEASE remember, it isn't the number of storms, it could be just one storm that may wreak havoc. BE PREPARED. Those of you in ARES, RACES, RED CROSS, ARCA, and other emergency groups,

this is what you drill for and learn how to react and operate. Sandy caught many states, cities, agencies and people basically unprepared. Hams did a great communications support job for weeks on end. Volunteer to help these groups, they need you. Remember, Family first, Volunteer second. But, to do both these jobs right---you must be prepared. We will have a couple of club programs on preparedness over the next couple of months. Remember--it could happen to us.

Dr Joe Palsa, K3WRY

---

---

## May 2014 RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 9, 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 asked everyone to introduce themselves and give their call sign.

Richard Arnold gave the treasurer report for the month. He reported one new application which was voted on and approved. Welcome new member Kris Proctor, KK4SIJ.

Allan Johnson, WA3J announced testing on May 10 at the church. Also testing will be at Field Day event on Saturday, June 28 at Laurel Park off Hungary Springs Road.

Roy Schultz KI4MCX reported on community service by club members and the next public service event is the Special Olympics in June.

Jim Bates reported on D-Star repeater upgrade.

Dr Joe Palsa spoke on Chesterfield ARES and also the DDXG club will be joining in for Field Day in June. There will be four clubs involved in the effort. The club's yard sale was going on Friday evening in the church and would also be on Saturday during the day.

Lew Best, W4LEW announced that John Watkins, NB4B was in the hospital having a bypass done.

The business meeting was adjourned so that members would have time to eat a meal fixed by Carolyn (KK4VIF) and Richard Worssam.

Following that, Rob Thomas, KC4NYK gave a presentation on DSP radios.

### RARC VE News

The July Testing session will be on the 12th 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).

---

### 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.

### 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.

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/).

---

### 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

---

### 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.

\* \* \*

---

### 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.

### RARC Yard Sale

A big **"thank you!"** to each of you who donated to and made purchases at your club's yard sale last month. The yard sale was a success because of you! Also, many thanks go to club members who assisted in setting up and pricing items for the sale. Special thanks are due for Christy Osterloh, KC4PKK, and Tom Ebbert, KG4BIZ, for their help in running the sale and cleanup afterward! Good job everyone!  
Marshall  
N4XBP

### 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 chefs hat on, your recipe books out and get your name on the refreshment list. Culinary celebrity await you!



### Dayton 2014 Report

My friend since the fourth grade, Wray, AB4SF, and I made our fourth annual trek to the granddaddy of hamfests, the Dayton Hamvention recently. Every year there's a little something new and memorable.

We were on I 64 near the West Virginia line when we heard a familiar call, WD3O, with Dave at the mic and Austin at the wheel, who were slightly ahead of us. We chatted on 146.52 for a while until they pulled off on a Boy Scout mission. They caught up with us a little later in Ohio, and about that time we heard Dave, N4MW, and Joyce, N4ZRW, who happened to be 300 feet ahead of us. It was quite a contingent of RARC members on Ohio Route 35 heading into Dayton.

After we got to our hotel Thursday afternoon it was fun to talk to Jim, K8OI, back in Richmond. Jim was on the W4FJ D-Star repeater, and Wray and I were using our HTs and DVAPs through the hotel's internet connection to link back to the repeater. Then on Sunday while mobile in West Virginia on the way home, we talked to Jim again through W4FJ - UHF but this time with a little help from the DVAP and a Verizon mobile hotspot to get us to the internet. West Virginia is unfortunately one of the few states with no D-Star repeaters. Nothing like a bunch of hams manipulating a little technology!

Dayton weather can be unpredictable. After three years of pristine sunshine, we experience just about everything that Ohio has to offer in terms of weather in three days from sun, to rain, to sleet with the temperature never getting out of the 50's, and well below that the first day. The flea market crowd quickly learned how to cover everything in plastic when the rain and sleet blew through, and to quickly reopen for business when the sky cleared.

Some of the technical highlights: The Icom ID 5100A was on the display for the first time. This is now Icom's flagship D-Star/analog VHF/UHF radio with a huge touch screen display. The coolest feature, as demonstrated to me by Austin, N4CVA, is the ability to control this radio not only by the touch screen, but in an even easier fashion via Bluetooth between the radio and an Android

tablet or phone. The radio could be had for \$729, but add \$100 for the Bluetooth option. The real sting I'm hearing is that you pay extra for any mounting bracket now.



Green Heron, which makes high end rotors and remote antenna switches, showed off a wireless remote antenna switch. By building a WiFi device into the switch, you eliminate the control cable. Their digital rotor control boxes are even more gorgeous to view in person than in a photo.

Tom, DF2BO, owner of Optibeam, was in his usual place in the Array Solutions booth with a very large antenna overhead. This year he had a 40 meter Moxon, basically a 40 meter square that has a turning radius of only 22 feet. Impressive for a rotatable, gain antenna for this frequency.



The famous Luso tower that I always enjoy seeing for its stunning engineering and price had not arrived on Friday, but was supposed to appear on Saturday. So this company representative had another way to attract attention.



Yaesu and Kenwood were showing off products they introduced last year. Yaesu was rationing the free baseball caps, maybe because people got a little greedy in the past.

FlexRadio had a big crowd at the booth, but their wares appeared to the same 6000 series SDR radios they introduced two years ago.



Adam Farson, AB4OJ, is one of my hero's as a result of his insightful postings to the Yahoo groups for Icom's HF radios. This year he held a small seminar in the Icom booth on the recent firmware upgrades for the IC 7700 and 7800. He presented a wealth of information in a short period of time demonstrating it on the actual radio. His talk was recorded and should be on YouTube soon.

Wray and I missed the D-Star forum at the HARA arena. I understand that Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC, inventor of the DVAP and DV Dongle, announced a new product based on a Raspberry Pi. We'll have to wait to learn more of the details. It was interesting to see the open D-Star advocates in Dayton this year, proving that D-Star really is not a proprietary system. Jonathan Naylor, G4KLX, who has developed non-Icom D-Star software for building D-Star repeaters and mobile units spoke at the D-Star forum, and Jim Moen, K6JM, developer of the MoenComm GMSK Node Adapter, spoke at the offsite D-Star forum which was actually sponsored by Icom. While Icom still commands the lion's share of D-Star sales, there is a lot of homebrew D-Star work being done. I even heard Ray Novak, Icom's USA top dog, giving some advice to the guys from Northwest Digital who are supposedly close to releasing a multi-mode (including D-Star) digital UHF radio.

This is the third year that the Alpha Amps folks were **not** selling their Dream Tuner. They have been quite apologetic for announcing a product so long before it would be ready to purchase. They finally had what appeared to be a working model, but they were quite discreet about a launch date as they continue the testing and refinement.

Two days before the hamfest, Alpha and Ten Tec announced a merger. I suspect that will be a good thing for the amateur community. On the bus from the parking lot to the hamfest I heard someone comment to a friend, "I'm sure glad Alpha did not merge with MFJ."

Some Richmond hams were present in the Hilberling booth where Marcus, WV4Y, was showing off the new Hilberling solid state amp. As with the Hilberling PT 8000 transceiver, it was beautiful. And so was the price.



Dayton offers free amateur exam testing, and for those who pass a test, the results are transmitted to the FCC in about 24 hours. This year the testing was moved away from the HARA Arena to a nearby church with transportation by a free shuttle. The church members had set up a food concession that was not only a lot cheaper than the food in the arena, but much better quality. Some folks were riding the van to the church just to eat.

We were also able to be part of the first public preview of the major re-write of the world's most popular contest operating and logging program N1MM Logger. At the Thursday evening RTTY Contest Dinner and later at the Saturday Contesting Forum members of the programming team showed us screen shots and told us about the improvements and new features as well as programming changes to make the software work faster and more efficiently. Wray, who uses the N1MM Logger heavily, is quite enthusiastic about the improvements. This major upgrade is due to be released within the next few weeks and remains free for the download.

One suggestion I plan to offer to the organizers is that they request the major cellular carriers to bring in some mobile cellsites. At least on Verizon, the cellular coverage in and around the arena was dismal. My battery died most days by 4pm as my phone searched for service. And if you actually had a signal, forget about emailing a picture to anyone. There was simply insufficient bandwidth. Even the poor vendors could not complete credit card transactions with their cellular card readers at times. And none of the pictures I snapped to send to friends apparently made it out of my phone until I had left the area.

Wray and I attended two banquets at the Crown Plaza downtown, the "official" hotel for the Hamvention. The RTTY Contest Dinner was back after a hiatus of some years. The CQ Contest Dinner is an annual event that this year had some 450 attendees. Partially sponsored by CQ Magazine, it is at the event during which the year's CQ Hall of Fame members are inducted. In addition to watching that ceremony we heard all about the World Radiosport Team Championships, a contest that tests the operating and contesting skills of hams from around the world, with everyone using identical 100-watt stations and all located in the same geographical area. The WRTC will take place in the Boston area in July.

Both of these Dinner events offer some fine door prizes. When we heard the callsign W4GV announced

as a prize winner, Wray told me has worked that call in a couple of RTTY contests and found that it belongs to Walt Beverly, previously WA4HVC, a former Richmond resident and member of the Huguenot High School Amateur Radio Club whom I had not seen or talked to in 40 years, proving once again what a small world ham radio really is.

I raced across the room to catch Walt when the dinner was over, and we spent 30 minutes catching up. He asked that we send his greetings to our high school radio club sponsor, Mac McNeer, K4YEF, who was responsible for encouraging the amateur radio interest of many of us who attended Huguenot High School in the 1960's. So Mac, Walt says "Hi."

Win  
WA4SSG

### The SWAP SHOP

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

For Sale the following Items:

Telepost Model LP-Pan 2 to be used on Yaesu Ft-2000, Ft-950, or Elecraft K3.

E-Mu 0204 Audio Interface

IF-2000 interface board (RFSPACE) Uses PowerSDR-IF software. Actual receive for Flex Radio.

All software included.

Call Lew Best W4LEW at 804-740-3890

### **Thought For The Day**

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

**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>		