



THE RICHMOND HAM

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February 2015

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, February 13th 2015, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

Coming Events:

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

VE Testing Session, March 14th, 2015 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.

January 2015 RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Jan 9, 2015
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM
Presiding Officers: David Robinson, KJ4LHP, President; Ken Leidner, KK4UKA, Vice President; Richard Arnold, WA4FEH; Treasurer and Maylon Pearman, KG4RPQ, Secretary.
Directors: Tim Farrell, KJ4NPB; George Golding, W3PPY; Buck Vaughan, KR4NL and Dr. Joe Palsa, K3WRY. Registered Agent for SCC, Marshall Ervine, N4XMP. School coordinator, Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU; and Newsletter Editor, Armand Hamel, WA1UQO. VEC: Allan Johnson, WA3J.
David opened the meeting and announced a change in the evening program.
Grayle Hunley, KF4USV ran his annual chili competition and asked for volunteers to sign up to bring snacks to the meetings. He sold extra chili and donated the money to the club for use of the 100 year anniversary plans. Visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

Minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Richard Arnold gave the Treasurer report for December. He announced one new application for membership, Jerry Hendrick, KA4EHP. He was voted in. Welcome to the club.

Bruce MacAlister reported on the club's school. Tech, General and Extra classes will be on Tuesday nights. Electronics for hams, HF and DX operations, CW code, Antenna modeling and D-star setup classes will be Thursday nights. Signups will be Feb 24 at 7:00 PM at the church or can be sent to Bruce. (see the clubs website at rarclub.net)

Alan Johnson announced schedule for testing of new and upgrade licenses.

Tom Flippin talked about the planning for Century of Ham Radio in Richmond.

Dr Joe Palsa spoke about the FrostFest plans on February 7.

Buck Vaughan and Tim Farrell are planing to setup stations for the Virginia QSO Party. They want newbies, both new hams and none hams to participate. They can operate under the Club's call sign and license.

Jim Bates reported on D-star activities and the slow speed CW 6 meters net.

David adjourned the meeting and the program

From The Prez

Another Frostfest has come and gone. This year it was held in the big building, all tables were sold, and I've been told that attendance was more than 2200 people.

We set up a booth for RARC and drew a lot of interest. Hopefully it will lead to new members and some more students for the license schools. We even had some dues paid to us! Our worst problem was lack of volunteers to man the booth. A few worked very hard to represent us. We owe them our thanks for a job well done.

On another note, the Virginia QSO Party will be held weekend of 21-22 March 2015. We are sponsoring the Single Operator Novice/Tech/Rookie plaque. Buck Vaughan and Tim Farrell are planning to setup stations for the Virginia QSO Party. They want newbies, both new hams and non-hams to participate. They can operate under the Club's call sign and license. Mark the date on your calendars and let's get on the air!

My parts are in for the project I am planning, but I now have a nice, one-owner Kenwood TS-520 competing for my spare time, (It's just not safe to send me across the building on errands during Frostfest!). I'll have it on the air in time for the QSO Party – I hope to hear many of you then.

73 de KJ4LHP
David R.



RARC VE News

The March Testing session will be on the 14th 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.

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

Regular Membership \$20.0

Lots of information about the Club and our activities is available on our website, www.rarclub.net.

2015 Refreshment Schedule

The refreshment schedule for 2015 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!!

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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HAMSITES!

Everyone has a few favorite Ham radio related websites. I have mine that I visit regularly and I'm sure most of you have yours. There are lots of facets to the Ham radio hobby and things can get quite specific in nature and also quite esoteric. Same with the Ham related websites. Many however are pretty general in content and can be appreciated by all. Also there are quite a few that offer really well done audio and video content and I'll list a few of those below. My appeal to YOU is that you let me know if you have any favorites that you think the club members would enjoy knowing about. I'll try to list a few each month as long as there is an interest.

Planning a trip any time soon? Then visit The RepeaterBook website. <http://www.repeaterbook.com/>. It's like having the repeater handbook on your computer or smartphone. Lots of info in addition to repeater listings. Nice to have when travelling!

Another site that caught my eye after reading an email that alerted me to the fact that every issue of Popular Electronics was available in pdf. format is <http://americanradiohistory.com/>. Not only Popular Electronics but hundreds of other radio and broadcasting books and magazines were there as well. It was worth the visit to see the first issue of this widely read magazine with all the photos and advertising.

Got a favorite of your own? Let me know. Thanks, Armand. armand.hamel@comcast.net

CW - A new opportunity!

Interested in putting those rusty CW skills to use? Never learned CW but think you're ready to jump in? Do high speed CW QSO's cause your ears to melt into your brain? Here's a way to stop all those problems: Join the CW Slow Ragchew Net. The purpose of the group is to help new CW folks gain confidence, help old-timers get back in the groove, and plain 'ol ragchew with the "original" digital mode!

Details:

What: CW Slow Ragchew Net

When: Wednesday nights at 8:30pm (usually lasts about 30 minutes)

Where: 50.135

Who: Contact Jim Bates (K8OI) or Armand Hamel (WA1UQO) for details.

D-Star Class Topics - Your Input Needed!!!

We are developing a D-Star class for the Spring and would like to obtain your input regarding topics. Please create a list of "things/topics" you'd like to discuss, learn, understand, share, etc. and e-mail them to jlbates4@gmail.com. All "things/topics" are welcomed! Even if you think your idea is basic or silly, please send it along anyway - if you don't mention it, do be sure that someone else will!

73 de K8OI

"Paperless" Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17

Starting February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (**ULS**), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. In mid-December the FCC adopted **final procedures** to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as **proposed** in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives.

Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an

unofficial "reference copy" — from the ULS License Manager.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

In [comments](#) filed November 5, the ARRL had strongly recommended that the FCC "give serious consideration to continuing a default provision for sending an initial paper license document to new licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, along with detailed, simple instructions for how to make the elections set forth in the notice relative to future modified or renewed licenses."

Under the new procedures, a new license applicant who already has an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and provides a valid e-mail address under "Applicant Information" in the ULS will receive an official ULS-generated electronic authorization via e-mail. New license applicants lacking an FRN will receive in the mail an FRN and a temporary password to access the Commission Registration System (CORES).

New applicants will no longer automatically receive a license document and must request one by changing their "Paper Authorization Preference" in the ULS License Manager.

The ARRL and other Amateur Radio commenters also worried that unless a license document is printed on distinctive paper stock, its authenticity could be questioned in such situations as obtaining vanity call sign license plates. To address this, the FCC said the watermark "Official Copy" will be printed on each page of an official authorization that a licensee prints out from the ULS. The WTB recently stopped using distinctive paper stock to produce hard copy licenses and has been printing these on "standard, white recycled paper." The Bureau noted that the distinctive paper stock it had used was six times more expensive than the plain recycled paper it now uses.

The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the

ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact [FCC Support](#) via the web, telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

The FCC rejected as "outside the scope of this proceeding" an ARRL argument that Section 97.23 of the Amateur Service rules be amended to replace "licensee mailing address" with other alternatives, including e-mail, for use in Commission correspondence. The rule, which requires that any licensee mailing address be in an area where the licensee has US Postal Service access, has precluded FCC issuance of location-specific call signs in such areas as Navassa Island (KP1) and some Pacific islands.

(From ARRL website)

The end is near for Radio Shack

The end is near for [RadioShack](#). It seems inevitable that the once seemingly ubiquitous electronics and cell phone retailer will liquidate its assets, after which RadioShack would cease to exist. A number of legal steps would come first, including a likely bankruptcy filing. The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) delisted RadioShack on February 2, after the company failed to provide a plan to address a lack of compliance with NYSE rules related to maintenance of company value. BloombergBusiness has [reported](#) that behind-the-scenes talks are under way to sell approximately half of RadioShack's owned-and-operated stores to Sprint and shutter the remaining outlets, although other scenarios involving other entities are possible. The nearly century-old Fort Worth, Texas, based retailer — once a go-to shop for electronic components and, at one point, even Amateur Radio and shortwave receivers — has lost 90 percent of its value over the past year, despite efforts to refinance and modernize its stores. Before it was delisted on Monday, RadioShack's stock was selling for just 24 cents a share. The hedge fund Standard General LP loaned the retailer \$535 million last fall and would be the lead bidder in a bankruptcy filing and debtor-in-possession financing, BloombergBusiness said. RadioShack once offered entry-level short-wave receivers, Citizens Band gear, a wide array of discrete components — including transistors, resistors, and capacitors — and, for a time, a fairly popular 2 meter hand-held transceiver and two different models of 10 meter single-band transceivers, although it failed in its effort to market a VHF/UHF hand-

held radio. Over the years, RadioShack has offered fewer discrete components in its brick-and-mortar stores, moving that stock and other products to its online outlet, as it shifted its marketing focus to cell phones, consumer electronics, and various battery-operated gadgets. A year ago, after a dismal holiday showing, RadioShack announced plans to close 1100 stores, including 900 company-owned outlets. Due to the high costs involved with closing the stores, liquidating merchandise, lease penalties, and severances, however, the company has been able to shut down fewer than 200 outlets. RadioShack was reported to have about \$60 million in cash heading into the 2014 holiday season.

RadioShack has had no comment on the reports.

(From ARRL website)

The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at waluqo@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:

Heil Proset 6 with Heil Footswitch new condition with original boxes and manuals, about 6 months old. \$100. 1944 RAL7 Navy Receiver with matching 6 volt P/S - both in good working condition - \$150. Contact Kris Proctor, KK4SIJ , (804)306-4789

For Sale:

Kenwood TS2000 looks like new. Kenwood MC-90 Desk Mike. KRS-2000 Programming/Control Software. Buckmaster OCF Dipole 80-6 meters Asking \$2K for ALL equipment shown (negotiable) Thanks!!! Gene Toler, NE4BT 804-749-4804 - ebtolerjr@gmail.com

900 MHz Radios and Antennas!!

For Sale: 900 MHz radios and antennas. Kenwood TK-981 FM transceivers for 900 MHz, used in good condition, bench checked, 15 watt, preprogrammed for Local and national simplex and repeater frequencies. Microphone, power cord and mounting bracket are included, price \$130. A limited number of mobile and base station antennas are also available. Equipment is provided at cost to promote Richmond area activity. Get yours now and join us on simplex or the 900 MHz repeaters.

Contact Dave Meier, N4MW 804-932-3641 - n4mw@n4mw.com

For Sale:

USED MILITARY ALUMINUM ANTENNA MAST SET CW-124/ GRA-4: TOTAL OF 8 ALUMINUM POLES. EACH POLE IS 66" LONG. THE OUTSIDE DIAMETER IS APPRO. 1.75". The masts are not bent and the case is in good condition. Might be missing a couple of guy stakes or small ropes but other than that the set is in good condition. PRICE: \$135.00 Sold As Is. Picture on request.

RCA TM-867 2-way/base station test set. Appears to be like new. \$50.00 Sold As Is.

Swan Electronics SWR Power Meter (Directional Coupler) Model WMM-200. Rated to 200 watts from 50 – 150 Mhz. Unit is new in the original box with the original instructions. \$150.00 Sold As Is. Picture on request.

Ameritron Model RCS-8V 5-position remote coaxial antenna switch. New in the box with instructions. \$149.00 Sold As Is. Picture on request.

MFJ Enterprises Antenna Analyzer Model MFJ-247. This is the first version of the popular MFJ antenna analyzer series. It covers 1.8 thru 30 Mhz in 5-bands which are 1.8 -2.9 Mhz, 3.2 – 5.3 Mhz; 6.5 – 11 Mhz; 12 – 21 Mhz and 18 -30 Mhz and gives a direct meter readout of the SWR for coaxially fed HF antennas in these frequency ranges. The instrument does not give impedance readings. The operation manual is included. \$50.00 Sold As Is. Picture on request

Items are being sold by Jerry Williams, KJ4IT, 804-357-2190, e-mail kj4it.jw@gmail.com.

Thought For The Day

The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

73 de:

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