



# THE RICHMOND HAM

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April 2015

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**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, April 10th 2015, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

### Coming Events:

April Meeting, April 10th, 7:00 PM.

**VE Testing Session**, May 9th, 2015 9:am at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

**Central Virginia 6M SSB Net Tailgate Fest:** May 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Public Service:

**Ashland Railroad Run**, April 18<sup>th</sup>, contact Jerry Williams, [kj4it.jw@gmail.com](mailto:kj4it.jw@gmail.com)

**Powhatan Historic Bicycle Tour**, April 26th contact Mike Hacket, [mhack61@yahoo.com](mailto:mhack61@yahoo.com)

**March of Dimes March for Babies**, May 17, 2015. Info contact Roy Schultz, [royschultz@hotmail.com](mailto:royschultz@hotmail.com)

**MS Bike Ride**, June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, contact Mike Hacket, [mhack61@yahoo.com](mailto:mhack61@yahoo.com)

**Special Olympics VA**, June 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, contact Brad Price, [KI4BWJ@KI4BWJ.ORG](mailto:KI4BWJ@KI4BWJ.ORG)

**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.

### PROGRAM: SDR Explained!

Bruce MacAlister will continue with the how's and why's and inner workings of Software Defined Radio.

**Speakers:** Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, has been a ham since 1995. He is most active as an instructor in the RARC radio school, chatting-while-driving via 2-meter repeaters and melting solder to build kits and circuits.

With an average S7 noise level at his urban location he finds HF too noisy to work much but when he does its SSB and PSK31 on 40- and 20-meters.

### March 2015 RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 13, 2015

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Presiding Officers: David Robinson, KJ4LHP, President; Ken Leidner, WV0L, 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. Newsletter Editor, Armand Hamel, WA1UQO. VE coordinator: Allan Johnson, WA3J.

David Robinson opened the meeting. He asked for any new or upgrade licenses and any new equipment by members.

Richard Arnold gave the Treasurer's report for February. He received five new membership applications. All five were voted in. Everett Hall (Buddy), KM4JCP; William Griffith, KJ4BJC; Joe Hubert, KJ4JPW; Dorothy Goerner, N5FRA; and Jim Merritt, KK4IUH welcome to the Club.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU reported on the club's school. There are 17 in tech class, 3 in general class and 5 in the extra class. There is 1 in the new HF/DX class, 2 in Morse code class and 1 in the antenna modeling class.

There was an article on the ARRL website about the Clubs' teaching programs. Allan Johnson, WA3J reported about interference to local 2 meter repeaters and what was being done.

Roy Schultz, KI4MCX reported on public service events in our area. See the [RARClub.net](http://RARClub.net) for date and times.

Tom Flippin, KD4CMK and Bruce MacAlister said that the Century on Ham Radio in Richmond is progressing and the MakersFest is

also in the planning stages. Also, there was a discussion on the logo for The Century of Ham Radio in Richmond.

Tim Farrell, KJ4NPB and Buck Vaughan, KR4NL offer to setup a station for the Virginia QSO Party on March 21 at the Church, if there was any interest.

A discussion about plans for field day 2015 was raised by David.

Tim Farrell announced that Dr. Joe Palsa, K3WRY was the new ARRL section manager. Dr. Joe asked that hams please volunteer their time.

The meeting was adjourned and the program on Software Defined Radio followed.

### From The Prez

Here it is April, already. Good weather is on the way (hope, hope) and with it, lots of things to keep Hams busy. Some of the events coming up soon are: March of Dimes March for Babies, May 17, 2015 (contact Roy Schultz, ([royschultz@hotmail.com](mailto:royschultz@hotmail.com)); MS Society Bike Ride, June 6-7 (contact Mike Hackett, ([mhack61@yahoo.com](mailto:mhack61@yahoo.com)); Special Olympics June 11, 12, and 13 (contact Brad Price, ([KI4BWJ@KI4BWJ.org](mailto:KI4BWJ@KI4BWJ.org)); Manassas Hamfest, June 14; Amateur Radio Field Day, on June 27 and 28.

Bruce MacAlister (W4BRU), and Tom Flippin (KD4CMK), are continuing to work with the Science Museum on the ARISS proposal for an ISS contact in 2016. The Science Museum will submit the proposal by April 15. About a month later the ARISS group and NASA lets everyone know who is on the short list. At that point they and /or ARISS and/or AMSAT assign some mentors to help each team. We need some people with satellite communication experience who are willing to help with this, please contact Bruce or Tom.

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and a contingent of League Directors, officers, and staff have been advocating for H.R. 1301 -- The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015. They are asking us to contact our Representatives and ask them to support this Bill. You can find full details on this Legislation at [arrrl.org](http://arrrl.org).

In closing, I want to ask everyone to plan ahead and reserve some time on the weekend of June 27-28 for Field Day at Laurel Park. This is one of the best chances of the year to show the public what Amateur Radio is all about. It's also a great chance to get together with our fellow Hams in the other area clubs for the 3 "F's" (Fun, Fellowship, and **Food**) See you there!

73 de KJ4LHP  
David R.

### RARC VE News

The May Testing session will be on the 9th 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@arrrl.net](mailto:wa3j@arrrl.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.

### 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](http://www.rarclub.net).

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**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!!

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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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**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.

In keeping with this month's topic of Software Defined Radios, the first website is run by the University of Twente in the Netherlands. <http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>. On this page you can listen to and control a short-wave receiver located at the amateur radio club [ETGD](#). In contrast to other web-controlled receivers, this receiver can be tuned by multiple users simultaneously, thanks to the use of Software-Defined Radio. When I checked out the site recently I was able to tune in the 20M band during the contest weekend. Easy to use and fun to listen to. No problems even though there were 232 other users listening simultaneously!

This month's second site goes hand in glove with the first if you have time some evening for a little shortwave listening. <http://www.shortwaveschedule.com/>. Easy to find the time and frequency of almost any shortwave station. Plug the frequency into the SDR radio and enjoy!

Got a favorite of your own? Let me know. Thanks, Armand. [armand.hamel@comcast.net](mailto: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.

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**US Amateur Radio Numbers Reach an All-Time High**

03/04/2015

Amateur Radio growth in the US continues to soar. At the end of 2014, the total number of radio amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database reached an all-time

high of 726,275. The trend has continued in the first 2 months of 2015, which saw the ham population rise to slightly more than 727,000. The figures exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Outside of a little dithering last fall, growth in the Amateur Radio Service in 2014 was steady, according to figures compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages. Over the past decade the number of Amateur Radio licenses in the ULS database grew by some 8.1 percent. But 2014 also was a banner year for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC).

"For the first time in the ARRL VEC program's history, we have conducted more than 7000 Amateur Radio exam sessions in a year, an important milestone," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "A total of 7216 ARRL-sponsored exam sessions were administered in 2014, compared to 6823 in 2013."

Somma said the number of new licensees spiked to more than 33,000 in 2014, up by about 15 percent from the previous year. Successful license upgrades rose last year by an unprecedented 13 percent over a year earlier.

At the end of 2014, there were 136,405 Amateur Extra, 169,524 General, and 357,236 Technician class licensees — all record numbers, Somma pointed out. While the number of Amateur Extra licensees grew in each month of 2014, the number of Technicians and Generals — and of licensees overall — faltered a bit last July and September. Last year's overall upward trend quickly recovered, however, during the final quarter of 2014. The General population also dipped briefly in May 2014, before rebounding.

Somma believes the July and September dips may have been a result of applicants' adjusting to the new Technician question pool that went into effect last July 1. "We always expect an adjustment period when a new question pool is introduced to the public, as VEs, teachers, and candidates must prepare new study and exam materials," she said, calling the dips "a normal part of the question pool cycle."

Technician licensees comprise a little less than one-half of the US Amateur Radio population. As of December 31, some 51,000 Advanced and 12,000 Novice licensees remained in the FCC database. The FCC no

longer issues Advanced and Novice licenses, and their numbers continue to decline.

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 102,806 at the end of February. Texas was a distant second, with 51,022, Florida came in third, with 40,743, Washington was fourth, with 30,511, and Ohio was fifth at 28,256. With the exception of Ohio, the licensing trend in these states has been through the roof. In Ohio, ham radio numbers have begun to flag after holding steady for about the past 4 years.

The state with the fewest number of Amateur Radio licensees in 2014 was North Dakota, with 1477, but in an overall upward trajectory since around 2009. Others with small ham populations include Delaware (1715 and growing), Rhode Island (1926 and drooping), Wyoming (1868 and headed up), and Vermont (2101 and slipping after a bump in 2013 and 2014). The numbers may go a long way toward explaining why these are rare multipliers in the ARRL November Sweepstakes and other events.

Club station licenses in the US number 11,501, according to Speroni's web pages. — *Thanks to Joe Speroni, AH0A; FCC ULS licensing statistics*

*From ARRL Website*



### **The SWAP SHOP**

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1ugo@arrl.net](mailto:wa1ugo@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

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#### **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](mailto:n4mw@n4mw.com)

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#### **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](mailto:kj4it.jw@gmail.com).

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**Thought For The Day**

Great minds discuss ideas; Average minds discuss events; Small minds discuss people.

**73 de:**

<b>David Robinson</b>	<b>KJ4LHP</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	(804) 226- 4295	thedarbinian@comcast.net
<b>Kenneth Leidner</b>	<b>WV0L</b>	<b>VICE- PRESIDENT</b>	(804) 790- 0008	kleidner@earthlink.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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