



THE RICHMOND HAM

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November 2015

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

will meet for the Annual RARC Banquet on Friday, November 20th 2015, 7:00 PM, at the **Beulah United Methodist Church**, 6930 Hopkins Road, North Chesterfield, VA at the corner of Hopkins and Beulah Road.

Coming Events:

RARC Annual Banquet, Friday Nov 20th.

VE Testing Session, November 14th, 2015 9am 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.

PROGRAM: Bob Eshleman, W4DR, and his wife Rosalie, N4CFL, will be our guests at the RARC Banquet to give a presentation of his DX'pedition to Syria. Bob has won the Clinton B. DeSoto Cup for having the most DXCC band-entities in the DXCC Challenge Award program for 4 consecutive years (1999-2003). He holds Five-Band DXCC certificate No 1, and is at or near the top of the DX lists for all bands, including 160 M! Bob has also been on several DX'peditions, so he has worked both ends of many pile-ups. He is past chairman of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee and also a member of the CQ Contest and DX Hall of Fame. FYI, Additional info on Bob's background

<http://emu.edu/alumni/homecoming/09/service-eshleman>

October 2015 RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 9th 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, Newsletter Editor, Armand Hamel, WA1UQO; and VE coordinator; Allan Johnson, WA3J. David Robinson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Six guests introduced themselves:

William Hankinson, KM4NCF, Dean Proper, KE4MQW, Zack Shifflett, KK4RUZ, Mike Calkins, KA2CUF, Logan Davis, KM4DCS and Jeff Davis, K4BXX. After the club members introduced themselves the meeting minutes from September were accepted. Richard Arnold gave the Treasurers' report and reminded us that the Annual Dues are due in November! He then read a letter received from the Wounded Warrior Project in response to a donation sent in memory of Buck Vaughn, KR4NL. Two new members were then voted in: Zack Shifflett, KK4RUZ and Dean Proper, KE4MQW. Welcome to the Club!!

David reported on the RARC's Presentation at MakerFest which was expanded upon by Tom Flippin, KD4CMK and Ken Zutavern, K4ZUT. A resounding success!

Dr. Joe Palsa, K3WRY reported on Hurricane preparedness and the Hurricane Watch Net. Next was the report from the Nominating committee. All the previous slate of officers have agreed to continue for another session. New to the Board of Directors; Julian Bailey, KV4VP and Alan Johnson, WA3J. There were no nominations from the floor. A unanimous vote accepted the proposed slate.

Thanks to all!

Ken Leidner, WV0L asked to have members write letters in support of HOA Bill 1301. Dr. Joe mentioned that his monthly report to the

ARRL has an explanation and a link to video explaining the Bill.

Tom Flippin, KD4CMK announced that HeathKit was back in business and would have kits by Christmas.

A "Go Box Contest" was announced by David with judging and prizes to be determined at the February meeting. Rules will be sent to everyone via email and regular post.

The meeting was adjourned and after a short break David presented a short ARRL video on the Ham Radio Parity Act.

Next month's meeting will be the annual club banquet with the installation of officers. Bob Eshleman, W4DR will give a presentation on his DXpedition to Syria.

We also have been asked by the Southern Railway Historical Society to participate in their Sam Morse Anniversary Celebration after our presence at the grand opening of the Museum was so well received.

Don't forget the Super Walk, Special Olympics, and the many events that need us for communication.

We have all of the elements to make 2016 a banner year. Now, the rest of the equation is all of you! We have a lot planned this year, and I bet everyone can find an upcoming event that interests them.

My challenge to you is to step up and get involved. Together, we can make this a fun and successful year for Amateur Radio and RARC.

73 de KJ4LHP

David

From The Prez

Another year is drawing to a close – but "close" is most definitely the wrong word to use. This has been an eventful year for RARC and next year is shaping up to be even more so.

First, I want to thank you for allowing me and the rest of our officers to serve another term. We will do our best to help make this year a great one.

Our License Classes are drawing to a close, and with record attendance, we should graduate a large group of new and upgraded Hams. Thanks to our Instructors and VE Team for all your hard work!

Bruce, W4BRU and Tom, KD4CMK, along with the rest of the ISS team are hard at work making the ISS contact at the Science Museum a reality. With their help, things are falling into place, but there is still a lot to be done. Anyone who is interested in participating in this project, we have a place for you!

Probably the first big event in the New Year is Frostfest. We have until February 6th to stash some cash and to decide what we can part with to add more to it. Then, the fun part – finding that "gotta have" piece of gear and taking it home!

The Virginia QSO Party is coming up in March and there are big things in the works involving RARC and the QSO Party. More information on this will be forthcoming.

RARC's participation at the Science Museum of Virginia's Maker Fair has been a huge success, turnout at this year's event was astounding.

The Science Museum has been most helpful and appreciative. Thanks to all who have helped make this happen.

RARC VE News

The November 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 OTHER 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/>.

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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| 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:

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| 80 and over | \$0 |
| Regular Membership | \$20.0 |

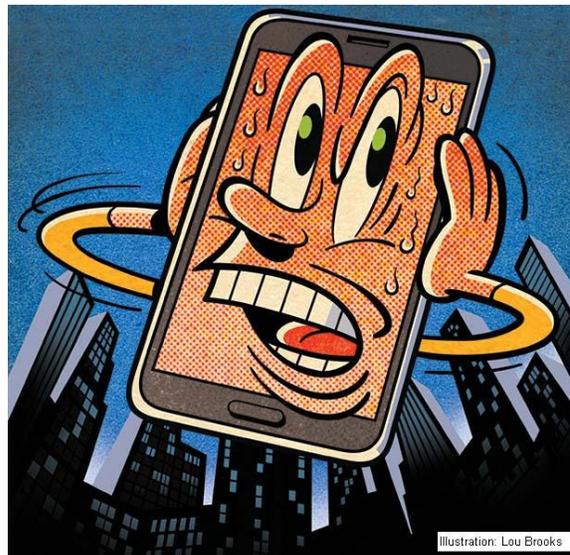
Lots of information about the Club and our activities is available on our website, www.rarclub.net.

2016 Refreshment Schedule

The refreshment schedule for 2016 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.



Phone to Fridge: SHUT UP!

This article in the September 2015 issue of the magazine *IEEE Spectrum* gets at the problem of RF noise pollution and why it will get worse. We hams are very, very familiar with this RF noise pollution. It is "hey, everyone, get off our frequencies!" The point of the article is that with every appliance sending RF into the Ether, little incentive for manufacturers to conform to standards, and the FCCs of this world not much interested in policing their own rules, it is about to get much, much worse. The authors Mark McHenry, Dennis Roberson and Robert Matheson describe their tests to find out how bad noise pollution is already by driving around northern Virginia with a custom spectrum recorder. They found a lot. They are calling for a comprehensive survey of RF noise, something that has not happened since the 1970s. Will anything happen? Well they point

out that the RF pollution from automobile ignitions was not solved until most cars had radios and the customers complained. Then the manufacturers found the incentive – selling cars – to design suppression circuits. The pollution today means that WiFi, mobile phones and other devices exchange information more slowly and use more power because they have to retransmit to overcome the losses to interfering RF signals. If a solution like that for automobile ignitions is to occur today, the mobile device manufacturers will have to use their money and their lobbying staff to get the regulatory agencies to do their jobs and take this on.

You can read the entire article at <http://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/wireless/electronic-noise-is-drowning-out-the-internet-of-things>. There are lots of comments on the site, many by hams like us who live with RF pollution on the bands.

By Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

Richmond Amateur Radio Club Go-Box Contest

February 12th, 2016

The Richmond Amateur Radio Club (RARC) is proud to sponsor our first Radio Go-Box Competition. The concept is to have radio amateurs "show off" their portable base station, or Radio Go-Box. The demonstration will give radio operators ideas to develop, build, and enhance their own Radio Go-Box. A Radio Go-Box is a portable base station consisting of, at a minimum, a transceiver, antenna, and power source. For the purposes of this contest, the power source does not have to be in the same container with the transceiver.

Contest Rules

Our first "RARC Radio Go-Box Contest" will be held on February 12th 2016. You do not have to be a member of any particular club to participate, but you must be a licensed ham to enter and participate.

There is no fee to enter the contest.

1) All Radio Go-Box entries must be in working condition at the Meeting. This means you must be able to operate the Radio Go-Box station much like you would at a public service event.
2) A good Radio Go-Box should be useful for any family in an emergency or survival situation. Having no guidelines, these types of

projects are open to creativity and individual needs. The number of radios and antennas can vary from one per kit to even three or more.

3) All participants must fill out a submission form to be eligible for the judging. The submission forms will be provided by the Go-Box contest committee.

4) Radio Go-Boxes will be accepted from 6:00PM until 7:00PM February 12th. This will provide enough time for viewing and any administrative work required for the submission.

5) Judging will start at 7:30PM, with the winning submissions announced at 8:00PM.

6) The Go-Boxes must be picked up starting by 8:45PM.

Radio Go-Box Entries

There are a few rules that each participant needs to follow. All Radio Go-Box entries must have the following present at the station:

1) **Container.** The container can be a tool box, suit case, tackle box, or ammo can, or a container commercially made specifically for a Radio Go-Box. However, there are no restrictions. Grouping the equipment into an organized container has a multitude of choices– almost anything goes.

2) **Transceiver.** Any transceiver will be accepted as long as it transmits on the amateur bands. The transceiver can be single band, dual band, and/or multiband. The radio can be a mobile or base station. It can be from an amateur radio manufacturer or commercial radio manufacturer.

3) **Power source.** The power source must be on site with your Radio Go-Box. It does not have to be onboard with the radio. It can be commercially made or homebrew. Power source examples include a deep-cycle marine battery, AC to DC power supply, or battery box.

4) **Microphone.** The microphone must be included with your Radio Go-Box.

Go-Box Classes

The competition will be across these classes, not between them. That is, like classes will compete and awards will be given in each class. The entrant will designate the class they wish to participate in. The same judging criteria will apply equally to each class.

1) **Homebrew** - This category is for go kits **not** utilizing devices commercially made specifically to house or enclose the Go Kit station. These go kits may use tool boxes, tackle boxes, suit cases, ammo cans, or similar to house or enclose the Go Kit station.

The SWAP SHOP

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

Knowledge is realizing that the street is one-way, wisdom is looking in both directions anyway.

73 de:

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|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| David Robinson | KJ4LHP | PRESIDENT | (804) 226- 4295 | thedarbinian@comcast.net |
| Kenneth Leidner | WV0L | VICE- PRESIDENT | (804) 790- 0008 | kleidner@earthlink.net |
| Maylon Pearman | KG4RPQ | SECRETARY | | |
| Richard Arnold | WA4FEH | TREASURER | | |
