



THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

March 2015

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

Coming Events:

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

VE Testing Session, March 14th, 2015 9:am at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

2015 Virginia QSO Party, March 21st and 22nd info at

http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2015_VQP/2015_VQP_Main.html

Central Virginia 6M SSB Net Tailgate Fest: May 2nd

Public Service:

March of Dimes March for Babies, May 17, 2015. Info contact Roy Schultz, royschultz@hotmail.com

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: SDR Explained and

Demonstrated. SDR – Software Defined Radio – is everywhere. It's the radio in your cell phone and your WiFi connection. It's also in most of new HF ham radio transceivers. Unlike much of ham radio, you can actually build SDR radios for fun and make contacts at a reasonable cost. You can also add SDR functions to your older ham gear. This program is a brief introduction to SDR by Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, followed by demonstrations of ham-built SDR equipment by Rob Thomas, KC4NYK. The gear will be available for viewing with time for learning how

to build your own and/or learning more about how SDR works.

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. Rob Thomas, KC4NYK, has been a ham since getting his Novice license in 1986. 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.

February 2015 RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Feb 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 Registered Agent for SCC, Marshall Ervine, N4XMP, and Newsletter Editor, Armand Hamel, WA1UQO.

David Robinson opened the meeting with introductions of all members and guests. He then called for any new or upgraded licenses. Next he called on any new equipment acquired.

Julian Bailey, KV4VP, announced a new DMR repeater was on the air and working in Petersburg.

The minutes from the January Meeting were approved.

Richard Arnold gave the Treasurer's report. He announced two new applications for membership. Both of which were approved by the members present. Welcome to the club, Qadir Abdus Sabur, KM4HGE, and Gary Perkins, AJ4IE.

Richard announced that he was working on a new roster for 2015.

David said the school registration was Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 PM at the Church.

Tim Farrell, KJ4NPB, gave a report on the results of the FrostFest VE testing. He also gave a quick report on the record turn out and all tables being sold.

Julian, KV4VP, said there is a group trying to start a new ARES team in Hopewell. Anyone interested please contact Julian Bailey. His contact information is correct on QRZ.com.

Tom Flippin, KD4CMK, commented on the Century of Ham Radio in Richmond. More information to be announced soon.

Buck Vaughan, KR4NL, and Tim Farrell, KJ4NPB, spoke on the club's plan for the Virginia QSO Party on March 21-22. See QSL.net and search 2015 Virginia QSO Party for rules and awards. They plan to have stations working at the Church on Saturday, March 21 and at their homes on Sunday the 22.

David Hines, K4HIN, asked for help to repair radios for the Virginia Voice organization. They provide special radios for people with blindness or low vision. Please contact David Hines if you can help.

David Robinson announced the Raleigh ham fest (RARSFest) on April 4. Website is RARS.org.

The Meeting was adjourned and a program on digital modes followed.

From The Prez

Looks like the past month has been an eventful one!

Our immediate Past President. Dr. Joseph Palsa, K3WRY, has been appointed as Virginia Section Manager. Congratulations, Dr. Joe, I know you will do a great job.

I want to congratulate Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, and our License School Faculty for the great job they are doing. I understand the Technician Class has 17 students and the website had to be updated with the statement that registration for the spring classes was closed (there was no more room for students).

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, is also working on the ARISS proposal for an ISS contact in 2016 via the science museum. I know he has his hands full making this happen. If any of you with satellite experience is willing to assist, please contact him.

We have this from an ARRL article. The total number of radio amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database reached an all-time high of more than 727,000. "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." Alan Johnson, WA3J, and the VE Team have played a large part in reaching these numbers, Well Done, Guys!

The March issue of The American Legion Magazine has a fine article on Amateur Radio called "Wave of popularity". You can find it here: <http://www.legion.org/magazine/226238/wave-popularity>

Something interesting in the February issue of K9YA Telegraph, a test of the Jetstream JT270M. It measures just 3 1/2" x 5" x 1 3/4", and should fit almost anywhere. Looks like it covers 2M plus a lot of other frequencies, such as Coast Guard and Public Service. Priced at \$139, it sounds like a reasonably priced radio for a spare or for a new Ham.

Don't forget, 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!

73 de KJ4LHP

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.

Ever wish you had saved all those Ham magazines that you've paid good money for but just didn't have the room or inclination to keep forever? Well, maybe not. Ever find yourself reading a current article that references another article from the long past? Well maybe so. 73 Magazine was published from October 1960 till October 2003 and is available in pdf format at <https://archive.org/details/73-magazine>. A little dated yes, but Wayne "Never Say Die" Green's editorials are worth the trip.

Band conditions are always a hot topic and this site <http://www.bandconditions.com/> is a good way to stay on top of changing conditions. The site is automatically updated every 30 seconds and worth checking out. Your mileage may vary!

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.

Congratulations Dr. Joe!!

Dr. Joseph Palsa, K3WRY, has been appointed Virginia Section Manager. An ARRL Life Member from Richmond, Palsa succeeds Carl Clements, W4CAC, of Portsmouth, who has stepped down due to increased work commitments. Palsa's appointment is effective immediately, and he will complete the current term of office, which continues until March 31, 2016. ARRL Field Services and Radiosport Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, made the appointment of Dr. Palsa in consultation with ARRL Roanoke Division Director Dr Jim Boehner, N2ZZ. Clements had been the Virginia Section Manager since 2008. He also had served in the post from 2001 until 2006. An Amateur Radio operator for more than 50 years, Dr. Palsa has been serving as Virginia State Government Liaison. During 2014, he was president of the Richmond Amateur Radio Club. In past years, he has held ARRL Field Organization positions as Official Bulletin Station, Official Observer, and Official Emergency Station. Active in ARES, he has received two ARRL Public Service Awards. Dr. Palsa enjoys DXing, contesting, and public service communication.

From ARRL Website

Great Press for Amateur Radio!

Thanks to Dan, N4DOB for bringing this to our attention. An article in this month's American Legion Magazine is a nice introduction to the many facets of Amateur Radio to a wide audience. While too lengthy to include here, it is available on line at this site, <http://www.legion.org/magazine/226238/wave-popularity>.

Take the time to read it. You'll be glad you did!

Great Press for local Amateur Radio!



Winter 2015

"Like many organizations of its kind, the Richmond Amateur Radio Club, in Richmond, Virginia, offers licensing classes for new and upgrading hams. But RARC has developed a robust core teaching team that also allows it to provide enrichment instruction to help radio amateurs enjoy their hobby to the fullest," began an article in the winter edition of *Radio Waves*.

The publication is distributed to instructors who are registered with the ARRL. It's a means to give other club schools ideas on how to teach and what to teach.

What brought the RARC Radio School to the attention of the ARRL are all the classes we teach in addition to the usual license prep classes. Classes like "Electronics for Hams," "Morse Code," "DStar Setup," "HF & DX Setup and Operations," and "Antenna Modeling" caught their attention.

The article included photos taken at the classes by *Richmond Times-Dispatch* photographer and ham Joe Mahoney, KI4GAP.

Thanks to Bruce and all the instructors for their time and effort in bringing our school to the level it has achieved and to National attention. Well done guys!

The SWAP SHOP

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

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
Is it OK to operate AM....after NOON?

73 de:

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