



# THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235

February 2018

**The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** will meet Friday, February 9th 2018, 7:00PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

## Coming Events:

### This Month's Program:

Dr. Joe Palsa, K3WRY is going to talk about ARRL membership; club membership; and "benefits" of ARRL involvement in Amateur Radio.

### January 2018 RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 12, 2018

Meeting Time 7:00 PM

Presiding Officers: Jim Bates, K8OI, President; George Golding, W3PPY, Vice President; Tom Newman, KJ4LVC, Secretary; Ken Leidner, WVOL, Treasurer. Directors: Allen Johnson, WA3J; Tom Flippin, KD4CMK; Win Grant, WA4SSG; David Robinson, KJ4LHP; Registered Agent for SCC; A.C. McNeer, K4YEF and Trustee for W4ZA : A.C. McNeer K4YEF; Trustee for W4FJ: Mike Owens, K4RKO; Armand Hamel, WA1UQO, newsletter editor.

Jim opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests. All were asked to introduce themselves and give their call signs. We then were led in the pledge of allegiance by Jim.

As there was no December meeting, the minutes of the November meeting were voted on and accepted. Ken gave the treasures' report for the months of October, November and December. He received 16 new applications for membership. All were voted on and accepted.

Jim led the meeting in a moment of silent prayer in remembrance of Mel Ford and thinking of his family.

Win Grant, WA4SSG, asked the club to pass a motion to allow him to draft a letter and speak on behalf of the club regarding SB74. SB74 would restrict the use of mobile Amateur Radio.

Motion was passed.

George Golding next announced about the FROSTFEST for Saturday, February 3, 2018 and the schedule of activities plus a need for volunteers with pre-setup being on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Reid Barden, N1VCU requested volunteers as he is the Volunteer Coordinator for RATS. Bruce McAlister announced that registration for the next license classes will be on February 27. Classes at the Technician, General and Extra levels plus remote control seminar and other seminars will be offered.

For show and tell Ken Zutavern, K4ZUT, showed a radio from India that is now available.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting. The social planned for the December meeting was then enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted by Tom KJ4LVC

### Letter from the President

February 2018

I'm writing this BEFORE FrostFest and you're reading this AFTER FrostFest - all I can say is that I hope you BOUGHT and/or SOLD something and feel good about it! I have spend far too much time procrastinating about "organizing" what I wanted to bring to FrostFest to be "offered" to the "discriminating" buyer - but nope, I just got boxes of junk (whoops) - stuff, valuables, collectibles, you know - the dregs of the shack and brought them along.

I really do enjoy FrostFest and the 50215 swapfest weekends. It's just about as much fun selling/buying something as having the "Eyeball QSO"! You know, there are deals and then there are DEALS! Since most of the DEALS are things that I have "just missed" or "heard about" - I don't spend too much time wishing I'd been there just a moment sooner; kinda like my XYL telling me about the fantastic "shoe sale" she just ATTENDED - which apparently occurs EVERY DAY...

I'd like to thank Jerry Williams (KJ4IT) for his help with a local SK Estate; Paul Boller (SK - W8IRT). I received an e-mail from HandiHams; I'm sure you've seen their ads in QST and online - <https://www.handiham.org/drupal2/>; asking for assistance with Paul's amateur radio gear. Paul's desire was for his gear to be donated to the HandiHams organization. Jerry volunteered to be "on point" to help inventory and discuss shipping options with Paul's XYL - Alice Boller. When RARC discusses being involved in the lives of our community, this is a fine example of how our members are participating! Paul and Alice's wishes for Paul's gear to help the HandiHams community are being realized by Jerry's help! It makes me proud of Jerry's and RARC Member's desires to help each other in times of need!!!

On the technical side of things; there is a lot of goodness to report! The D-Star gateway recently had some cabling issues resolved by Win Grant (WA4SSG) - who, by the way, is in his FINAL MONTH of "gainful" employment. Someone twist Win's arm and get him involved even deeper in some volunteer activities before someone else gets hold of him :) The Remote Station continues to grow in popularity - I have received MANY complimentary e-mails, comments, and thanks from RARC members who are using the station from locations where operation is simply impossible - assisted living facilities, living with children in homes with HOAs, no financial resources. Ken (WV0L) and Bruce (W4BRU) have been keeping that system rocking and rolling! The D-Star gateway (W4FJ) has been updated with software patches to prevent the Meltdown and Spectre viruses - thanks go out to ICOM's excellent tech support team for help with resolving some registration page issues post patching!

I've been experimenting with some ircddbgateway, dstarrepeater, and Raspberry Pi configurations - all in an attempt to avoid doing work while at work. I've really been enjoying working on the Pi platform, figuring out some opensource software that allows even MORE D-Star network connections around the world and finally, working with hardware (radios - old and new, repeaters, DVAP's and other devices) integration with the Raspberry Pi's. There is just SO much you can do that I wish I had more time to explore, configure, and PLAY :) Some folks like collecting gear; some like the smell of solder smoke (or the sounds - I'll let you figure that one out!); some like pure RF; and no matter what you're preference -

you can FIND SOMEONE in Richmond who will "Play Radio" with you.

I have also enjoyed using the W4FJ repeater to hold some technical roundtable forums! Not every technical discussion HAS to be held in person - we've had 8 - 10 folks get together over the past few Wed nights to discuss the Raspberry Pi project. It's really nice to use our repeater(s) as a means of sharing, discussing, and debating technical issues about our hobby. The hardest part for me is trying to figure out how to be a better "moderator" - this is where listening to net control operators has taught me some valuable lessons. Not everyone can talk at the same time; you need to leave time for people to answer; and you need to be explicitly clear about who's turn it is to speak :) Regardless of the ineptitude of the moderator - I'm glad that people are interested in the topics and are finding it FUN!!! If you have a story about something neat, cool or better yet, embarrassing - please consider writing it up and sharing it with your friends at RARC :) I look forward to seeing you at the RARC meeting!  
73 de K8OI

### **RARC VE News**

#### **FCC EXAMS EVERY OTHER MONTH**

RARC offers VE Testing Sessions on the second Saturday of odd months except June to cover Field Day instead of July: Bon Air United Methodist Church, 9 AM.

The March testing session will be on the 10th at the Bon Air United Methodist Church at 9:am.

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 [ve@rarclub.net](mailto:ve@rarclub.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.

### **RSS – a quick summary of RARC news**

Look near the top of the club web site, <http://rarclub.net/>, and on the left you see an icon that looks like something radiating a signal. Actually it is a quick way to check on new entries on the website called an "RSS feed." Click it and you get a summary of the last few posts. You can have it put as a link in your on the browser list as you see in yellow. So each day or four you click the that link and you get a quick list of the most recent posts. If one looks interesting, click it in the list and it takes you directly to it. If everything looks boring, just go back to what you were doing.

Reported by Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU

### **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 \$20.00

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

<b>Sunday</b>	7:00 pm	50.135	USB
	7:30 pm	52.525	FM
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7:00 pm	28.475	USB
	8:00 pm	147.255	D-Star Rptr
	8:15 pm	145.730	Packet

### **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.

### **Show and Tell!**

If you have an item, idea, latest and greatest, or whatever gizmo; please bring it to the RARC meeting. We have a table (usually) set up near the front where you can place your item and share/discuss it with others as they arrive. We also have a section of the agenda set aside for members to discuss their "Show and Tell" item(s). No need to be tentative; we are INTERESTED in what you are doing, how you are doing it and, in true Ham fashion, how much it costs!

### **Thanks Win !!!**

Here is a brief report from Win Grant (WA4SSG) regarding the status of SB74:

Good news. Senator Surovell brought an amended version of the distracted driving bill to the Transportation Committee hearing that specifically excludes amateur radio. He made a comment that he had amended the bill after hearing from many constituents. I took that to mean northern VA hams.

When the chairman asked for comments from the public I stated on behalf of RARC that the amended version resolved our objections. The patron whispered "thank you" to me.

The amended bill passed the committee 9 to 4. Unless it gets amended to remove our exemption, amateur radio operation is not included in the bill.

### **RADIO 101, #8**

**By John G. DeMajo, K5HTZ**

In our time travel through the history of the development of radio, we now find ourselves in the early 1920s. World War I had made us aware that the future of warfare would rely heavily on electronics. At the same time, Lee DeForest and Edwin Armstrong made it possible to replace precarious spark and coherer based radio systems with more

reliable vacuum tube technology and regenerative amplification of weak signals. Frank Conrad had successfully proven that radio could enter the home as an entertainment and information source, and the radio broadcasting industry, though still in its infancy, was on its way to becoming well established.

At the time, the developments that were making commercial radio available to a growing number of households in America, were also aiding the Ham radio community. Armstrong's regenerative receiver was a relatively simple construction project that most amateur electricians could master. In the years between the November 1920 KDKA radio birth of commercial broadcast media, and the mid 1920s, many radio manufacturers began to spring up all over the country. Names like Atwater Kent, Zenith, Westinghouse, RCA, McMurdo, and a multitude of lesser manufacturers, were dumping commercially made sets onto the open market at a record pace. According to figures in historical data from that period, over a million radio sets had been manufactured and sold by the end of the 1925 model year. In 1926, the Federal Communications Commission was established, and the Radio Act of 1927 defined the parameters of both commercial and amateur radio operation.

To put this exponentially rising popularity into perspective, we find that in the year 1921, one in five-hundred American households possessed a radio. Four years later, in 1925, one out of every six households owned a radio.

On the amateur equipment side, one of the first entries into the field was the National Toy Company, which began making toys in 1914, and branched out into the home appliance and radio equipment business as early as 1916. Later, the company's name was changed to "National Company," and in 1923, National was one of the first contributors to the amateur radio market with the introduction of their "NC" receiver series of short-wave communications receivers. The very earliest of this series were the famed "Thrill Box" radios that bore the model numbers SW-1 through SW-6, the model number designating the number of tubes in the radio. Early amateurs latched onto these sets, and they became the early standard of commercially made ham radios. Pictured, along with this month's article, is the Museum of Yesterday's National SW-3, one of the biggest selling ham receivers from that era, shown with an accompanying one-tube, carbon microphone modulated oscillator-transmitter of the same vintage.

One can easily envision an early amateur of that time, sitting in front of his new SW-3, with its glowing orange tube filament aura, and realizing that the world of Radio was now at his fingertips.

Next month, we will explore more of the early ham equipment manufacturers, including the famous Hallicrafters company which played an important part in the development of communications receivers for amateur civilian and military use.



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### **Mel Ford W4AHC SK**



Melvin Lee Ford Jr., 83, of Glen Allen, passed away January 6, 2018. He was with the Virginia State Police Communications Division for 28 years, retiring in September of 1991. He is survived by his wife, Janet Miller Ford; two sons, Melvin Lee Ford III D.D.S. (Kim) and John Chetley Ford PhD; one daughter, Laura Lea Ford; four grandchildren, Karmen Fazzari, Matthew Ford, Melanie Ford and Diana Cudmore (Keith); one great-grandchild, Emma Cudmore; two sisters-in-law, Betty Miller Sydnor and Linda Miller Brown (David); one brother-in-law, John Tilden Miller III (Judy); numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Besides his family, he leaves behind many friends who he loved so dearly. Growing up in Richmond, Mr. Ford graduated from Hermitage High School. His love of radio since his youth (W4AHC) led him to his career with the Virginia State Police.



## ARRL Suggests FCC May Need to Intervene to Ensure Effective Antenna Rights

02/01/2018

Commenting in response to an FCC *Public Notice* (DA 17-1180) released last month, ARRL addressed the extent of Amateur Radio's response to recent hurricane disasters and efforts needed to expand the use of Amateur Radio services when it comes to planning, testing, and providing emergency communication. The comments point out that Amateur Radio not only has been "far more than a hobby;" it is a ubiquitous, infrastructure-independent communication resource that's always ready to deploy effectively whenever and wherever needed. The League cited the remarks of former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, that Amateur Radio "oftentimes is our last line of defense." ARRL raised three areas where action by the FCC could ensure and enhance the ability of radio amateurs to provide emergency communication, including the current Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017 (S. 1534), now in the US Senate.

"HOAs can preclude amateur antennas in common areas. HOAs can enact reasonable written rules governing height, location, size and aesthetic impact of, and installation requirements for, outdoor antennas and support structures for amateur communications, but the effective outdoor antenna requirement is paramount," ARRL noted in its comments. "The bill is currently before the Senate Commerce Committee. If, however, Congress is unable, as has been rumored, to pass *any* telecommunications legislation this term, it will be incumbent on the Commission to take the action on its own initiative that would be called for by this legislation. The future of Amateur Radio emergency communications is dependent on it."

ARRL asserted that it "is critical to have stations located at one's residence in order to regularly participate in disaster preparedness training exercises and drills."

Another "noteworthy and urgent need" that might call for some regulatory involvement by the FCC, ARRL said, "relates to an outdated regulation that limits data rates in HF Amateur communications, precluding certain digital emissions that have recently proven extremely important in Amateur Radio hurricane relief efforts." ARRL noted that the FCC has yet to act on the League's *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11708), filed in November of 2013, proposing to amend the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the symbol rate limit relative to data emissions in allocations below 29.7 MHz.

That *Petition* also called for establishing a 2.8-kHz maximum occupied bandwidth for data emissions in those bands. ARRL has argued that this deregulatory action is necessary to allow the use of PACTOR 4, an effective and efficient digital communication mode that has proven valuable in disaster-relief efforts. In July of 2016, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in WT Docket 16-239, proposing only to remove limitations on the symbol rate applicable to data emissions.

"Equipment dispatched with the 'Force of 50' [volunteers] to Puerto Rico included data transmission equipment capable of PACTOR 4 operation, but it could not be legally used in the Hurricane Maria disaster relief effort," ARRL noted. The League prevailed upon the FCC to grant a temporary waiver to permit use of PACTOR 4 by radio amateurs involved in the emergency response. "However, it should not have been necessary to wait more than 4 years for the underlying rulemaking proceeding to have been resolved, and it should not have been necessary to ask for a temporary waiver of a hopelessly outdated rule that limits data speeds for no useful reason," ARRL added in its comments.

The League also called on the FCC to "take the action requested in ARRL's January 2017 *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11785), proposing to allocate the band 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, in accordance with the Final Acts of World Radiocommunication Conference 2015.

"A contiguous band in the vicinity of 5 MHz will assist in conducting emergency and disaster relief communications in the United States; with the Caribbean basin; with Alaska and with other parts of North, Central and South America," ARRL told the FCC. ARRL has asked the FCC to permit 100 W, as it does on the five existing 60-meter channels, and to retain the four channels that are not part of the requested contiguous frequency band.

(ARRL Website)

### The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send descriptive information to Armand at [wa1uqo@arrl.net](mailto: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.**

**For Sale: Carolina windom** wire antenna kit. Radio works model short40.

New never been opened. Pictures available. \$99,95 plus freight. Get on the air today with this bargain.

**Flex 5000a SDR transceiver**, 100 watts 160 to 6 meters. Comes with remote tuning wheel, fire wire cable, Built in 100 watt antenna tuner and 12VDC power cable. \$1399 cash. Pictures available.

**Yaesu Vx7R HT**. Water proof. 5 watts. Also RT systems software for easy programming. Microphone, hi speed plug in desk charger, wall wart. All in original box. \$249.00 cash. Great hand held all channels. Pictures available. Contact Jon Bennett, 804-241-6555

**Wanted:** 100 Watt Dummy Load From NQ4A, Jon Bennett 804 241 6555

**Wanted:** 23CM Beam. Contact Ben Richardson, K4ITQ. 804-840-6800 - [kd4tzq@comcast.net](mailto:kd4tzq@comcast.net)

### Thought For The Day!

***Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.***

Jim Bates	K8OI	President	(804) 592-1068	<a href="mailto:jl Bates4@gmail.com">jl Bates4@gmail.com</a>
George Golding	W3PPY	Vice President	(804) 318-6951	<a href="mailto:w3ppy@arrl.net">w3ppy@arrl.net</a>
Tom Newman	KJ4LVC	Secretary		
Ken Leidner	WV0L	Treasurer		

### Famous Hams?

