



THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235
80th Anniversary Year 1929 - 2009



MARCH 2009

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, February 13, 2009, 7:00pm at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

PROGRAM: John Griffiths KF4JG kicks off the kit build competition presentations with a display of his QRP station which consists of a Ten-Tec regen rcvr, Tuna Tin II xmtr, 5 W amp, and 'Tenna Dipper. Lots of solder melting to complete these projects!

Remember, the meeting starts at 7:00 PM!

From the Pres:

It looked like we had a good crowd at Frostfest 09 and I would like to thank Ben Richardson KD4TZQ, John Ratcliff KJ4GBV, and Tom Ebbert KG4BIZ for working the R.A.R.C. Booth.

By the time that you will receive this news letter, Geek Fest at the Science Museum will have been presented. I would like to recognize Roy Schultz KI4MCX, Chairman of the Public Service Committee, and Bruce MacAlister W4BRU for their organizing efforts, Richard Arnold WA4FEH and the Tech Committee for equipment set-up and booth volunteers Greg Curti KG4KWW, John Ratcliff KJ4GBV, and Ben Richardson KD4TZQ. Things get done when you have good and willing volunteers.

73,
Zeke KJ4ASG



Coming June 27, 28

**** IMPORTANT SCHEDULE CHANGES ****

VE exams have been rescheduled to **March 26 at 7:00 PM**. This will allow the classes to make up a snow day.

The **RARC April monthly Club meeting** has been rescheduled to **April 3rd** because the Easter weekend begins on April 10th this year. Please mark your calendars. The newsletter will be published a week early in April.

HISTORY TODAY

"Who was the first radio amateur in Virginia? Undoubtedly, he came from the ranks of 'electrical experimenters' who, at the turn of the century, had made electro-magnetic motors, batteries, even telegraph lines, purely as a hobby. The fascinating new art of radio drew the experimenters to this new hobby. Prior to 1912 no license was required to get on the air. However, with the passage of the 1912 Radio Act amateurs were required to be licensed by the Department of Commerce, and 1,310 had done so by July 1, 1913 when the first "callbook" by the Department was published. (see 200 meters and Down, page 16 for more info about early hams)"

"In that publication, entitled Radio Stations of the United States, there were 5 amateur stations in Virginia listed. Three were in Richmond. These were: 3FY CHRIS CORE 907 EAST LEIGH ST RICHMOND, 3JN HARRY KORAB, 418 CLAY STREET RICHMOND, 3GX GEORGE ROBINSON, 607 N 10TH ST RICHMOND, 3HU LOUIS FALCONI, 617 CRAWFORD ST PORTSMOUTH, 3JD ROGER WOLCOTT 224 41ST ST. NORFOLK, VA. Robinson told me that all three Richmonders were in their late teens."

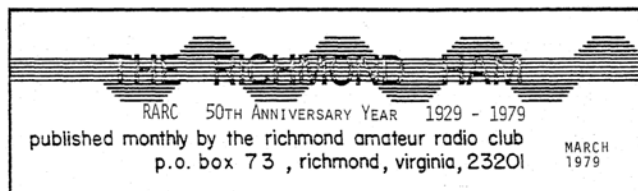
The lines above were written by Pip Sager WB4FDT in the Virginia Ham, September, 1974

In the Club roster of 1952, George S. Robinson is listed as x3FE, which we would write as ex-3FE.

The year 1913 is mentioned in a new book by P.W. Singer, *Wired for War* (2009), page 158: "...in 1913 the U.S. government sued Lee de Forest of RCA for telling investors that his company would soon be able to transmit the human voice across the Atlantic Ocean. The idea seemed so absurd to the government that de Forest was assumed to be a swindler." [I recommend this book to those interested in technology and its applications.]

73, Art Williams W4TY

Happenings at RARC 30 years ago...



March 1979 – The Richmond Ham

The March 1979 meeting was held at the Stone House in Forest Hill Park. George Mehl WD4PKV presented an introduction to personal computers. Tina Fritz from Computer Techniques displayed and demonstrated some computer hardware. Also on the program, Bob Akers W4HBA discussed the new Drake TR-7 transceiver.

The Nominating Committee gave its report followed by the election of Club officers for 1979.

The Club repeater (34/94) stayed busy and no down time was reported. There was a little trouble with the announcement tape mechanism, but that was quickly repaired. The current issue of the CVRA Journal had a nice write-up on RARC and the 34/94 machine.

Tidbits of the Club's history were shared from 50, 47, and 37 years ago. Lots of DX and contest news on page 2. And Ted W4FJ provided current happenings on VHF/UHF and satellites.



Coming June 27, 28

QST 80 Years Ago...



Courtesy March 1929 QST

QST March 1929

The hot topic in this issue was revisions to the Army-Amateur Radio System. This was the affiliation between the Army Signal Corps and radio amateurs of the United States. It seemed to be a give and take proposition with both groups benefiting. From this, amateurs would learn to participate in structured nets and become experts in traffic handling. Their equipment would have to be upgraded to be able to change frequency quickly and be on an exact frequency. The Army benefited by having backup radio operators in time of emergencies. All amateurs were encouraged to join this system.

There are many technical articles in this issue, some experiments, some construction. As shown on this month's cover, a new design superhet receiver is featured in this issue. It seems that those who operated phone wanted a receiver tweaked for phone operation, not just CW. If you can acquire the parts and pieces, you should be able to build this set from instructions in this article. Bet you'd win the kit building contest if you could pull this project off!

The issue is also full of DX information, regulatory information, comments from readers, and those really nifty ads. I am still fascinated by the magazine's coverage on television. [This was 1929 folks. I saw my first

TV set in 1948.] There is a very interesting article titled "What Price Television?" that I am sure will hold your interest as you read how the television industry developed back then. As always, amateurs had an important role in the development of this new technology.

Welcome to our new members!

Patricia Johnson N8WEA, **J.J. Lewis** W8MGZ, and **Phil "Pip" Sager** WB4FDT.

The Tech Corner

RARC's 2009 Kit Build competition kicks off the presentation phase of the competition at the March meeting with Griff KF4JG presenting his QRP station. Remember, you, the membership, are the judges of the competition. A ballot is included with this month's newsletter. After Griff's presentation, mark your ballot for Griff's efforts. The competition will carry over several months so record your thoughts now before you forget. At the conclusion of the competition, we will ask that you turn in your ballots so the Tech Committee can tally the scores. The winner will be announced at the following meeting and the prize, an Icom IC-2200H 2-meter transceiver, will be awarded.

RARC Radio School

The license prep classes will wrap up very soon. Exams are scheduled for March 26th at 7:00 PM. We wish the students good luck with their exams and thank the instructors for their efforts. Our next series of classes will begin in September. If you couldn't make it to the current classes, mark your calendar for September!

Complete information on our school is available on the club's website www.rarclub.net. If you have questions, please call Mike at 272-7167 or Zeke at 272-2842.

RARC Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 1905 by President Zeke Zeanon KJ4ASG.

There were 40 members and 7 visitors present.

We have two new members: Patricia Johnson N8WEA and J.J. Lewis W8MGZ

Art Williams W4TY nominated Phil "Pip" Sager WB4FDT for a Life Membership. It was unanimously approved.

The Minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter.

The Treasurer's Report was read and filed for audit.

The VA QSO Party will be from 1800 hrs March 21 to 0100 hrs March 23. Jerry Williams KJ4IT announced a Silent Key, Dieter Schlieman KX4Y.

Committee Reports:

Public Service-Roy Schultz KI4MCX tells us that the Geekfest will be held March 7th and needs volunteers. The March of Dimes Walk-a-thon will be May 3rd.

Technical-Ron Chase KD4XA announced a new member of the committee: Richard Arnold WA4FEH. The ballots for the Kit Building contest will be in the March Newsletter. The prize will be an Icom IC2200H

History- Art Williams W4TY awarded a prize to whomever could guess the date of the first Amateur transmission in Richmond. It was 1913.

Website-No Report

Newsletter-No Report

P.I.O.- Rob Thomas KC4NYK tells us he's gearing up for the upcoming year's events.

V.E. Report- Marshall Ervine NX4BP reported that the Frostfest exams yielded 15 Techs, 15 Generals and 9 Extras. Mac McNeer K4YEF is in the hospital for tests.

There will be Board Meeting 1900 hrs March 2nd at BAMC.

Old Business-None

George Bean AI4VJ announced Skywarn Net Control training on 1300 hrs March 28th in the VA Center Commons Ukrops Community Room. You can sign up at the Skywarn website.

Program-President Zeke Zeanon KJ4AS, in the absence of our planned speaker, talked about the Zuni Maritime Project which plans to bring a WWII Ocean-going Salvage Tug to Richmond.

The meeting was adjourned at 1955 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelton Harlow KG4ZIL
Club Secretary

Membership Roster Updates

Members, please change these listings on your roster;

1. Mack Ruffin, W4TWS, remove any e-mail listing.
2. Jerry Williams, KJ4IT, change e-mail address to kj4it@arri.net.
3. Judie Henry, N5JCH, change the address to P.O. Box 1375, Chesterfield, VA 32832.

Please add to your roster;

1. Patricia Johnson, N8WEA, 12836 Winfree Street, Chester, VA 23831, e-mail = n8wea@arri.net.
 2. James J. Lewis, W8MGZ, 1500 Turnmill Drive, Richmond, VA 23235, e-mail = jjlewis1@yahoo.com .
 3. Phil "Pip" Sager, WB4FDT, 7634 Carla Road, Baltimore, MD 21208, e-mail = philwb8fdt@hotmail.com.
 4. Mike Ratcliff, KC4AHE, 2065 Woodmont Drive, Richmond, VA 23235.
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CLUB NETS:

Sunday	7:00 PM	50.135	USB
	7:30 PM	52.525	FM
Wednesday	7:00 PM	28.470	USB
	8:00 PM	147.255	D-STAR Repeater
	8:15 PM	145.730	Packet
Thursday	7:30 PM	21.040	CW 10 wpm

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RARC VE News

The next RARC VE exam session will be Thursday, **March 26**, 7:00 PM, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church. **Note: This is a change in date.**

Thanks to Mac, K4YEF, and his loyal crew of volunteer examiners who continue to support this activity for the amateur community.

FCC EXAMS EVERY MONTH on the SECOND SATURDAY. For January and all odd-numbered months: Bon Air United Methodist Church, 9am. Call coordinator Mac McNeer K4YEF, 272-6185, 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 (932-9424) has information and registration at <http://www.w4pw.org/>.

Like to melt solder?

Want to teach some Boy Scouts how to do it right?

On Saturday, March 28, IEEE is testing their electronics merit badge class designed for the 2010 Jamboree. Boy Scouts at Camp T. Brady Saunders in Goochland will take the class. We need some good solder melters to teach the boys how to do it. You can learn more about this work at <http://www.emeritbadges.org/>. Bring your soldering stations, some solder and your skills at getting a good shiny electrical bond. To sign up, send a note to Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, at w4bru@arri.net or call him days at 353-4269 or evenings at 353-7535.



Interested in writing a column for the newsletter?

If you have an idea for a column that you think Club members would enjoy reading, please contact Ray Roberts W4MYI to discuss your ideas.

The SWAP SHOP

Club members may list their wares in the newsletter. Send your request to Ray at w4myi@arrl.net. 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. ***You must be an RARC member to place an ad.***

The Club has a novel arrangement to bring buyers and sellers together--- a "swap shop." Have something to sell or swap? Looking for something related to radio or electronics? Write a brief description and send it in. It will appear in the newsletter three times unless extended. Any interested parties will contact you directly. Questions? Bring them to the meetings.

M-Square 2-Meter HO Loops with Manual: This is 2-each 2-meter loops stacked horizontally. Gain of this stack is typically 8-db with 9-degrees of radiation. The antenna is rated at up to 1.5 kW and the frequency range is 144.0 – 144.5 MHz. This antenna can be mounted fixed station or mobile with appropriate hardware. Please refer to <http://www.m2inc.com/index2.html> for additional technical details. I will bring this antenna to the upcoming RARC meeting for viewing. Contact Jerry Williams, KJ4IT at 804-357-2190. FOR SALE \$85.00

Antenna Specialists 1/4-wave High Band (VHF) Ground Plane Model ASP-7A -- This antenna is NEW in the Black and Red Tube. The antenna is complete with all mechanical parts and instructions. In addition to VHF, this antenna can be trimmed to operate in the 220 Mhz and 440 Mhz band using the easy to follow instructions. Please refer to this link to the Tessco website for detailed information http://www.tessco.com/yts/customerservice/techsupport/pdf/dpi_asp7a.pdf. I will bring this item to the upcoming RARC meeting. Please contact me at kj4it@amsat.org or call me on my cell phone (804) 357-2190. I am asking \$25 for this antenna. Jerry Williams, KJ4IT

Picture your ad here! Surely you have something lying around the shack you don't want anymore. Remember, one man's junk is another man's treasure. Being a Club member entitles you to place your ads in the newsletter for free.

Join the Richmond Amateur Radio Club

Annual Dues are:

80 and over	\$0
Age 12 and under	\$5.00
Age 13 to 18	\$10.00
Regular Membership	\$15.00

73 de:

Zeke Zeanon	KJ4ASG	PRESIDENT
Herb Johansen	KI4HWS	VICE-PRESIDENT
Shelton Harlow	KG4ZIL	SECRETARY
Richard Arnold	WA4FEH	TREASURER

Thought for the Day

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment

VISIT OUR WEBSITE, <http://www.rarclub.net> Much information available!

 **Remember, the meeting starts at 7:00 PM!**

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The RARC April Meeting will be on April 3rd this year

Richmond Amateur Radio Club 2009 Kit Build Ballot

1.) John Griffiths / KF4JG Ten-Tec Regenerative Receiver, Tuna Tin II Transmitter, 5 watt Amplifier (Maine QRP Club), 'Tenna Dipper

Innovation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Complexity (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Presentation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

2.) Art Williams / W4TY NorCal 40A QRP CW Transceiver

Innovation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Complexity (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Presentation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

3.) Jerry Williams / KJ4IT Ten-Tec 1524 Super Heterodyne Receiver

Innovation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Complexity (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Presentation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

4.) Bruce MacAlister / W4BRU Ramsey 2 Meter Receiver

Innovation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Complexity (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Presentation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

5.) Ed Deane Ramsey Receiver Kit

Innovation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Complexity (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Presentation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

6.) Paul Dunnington / KI4SZR TAK 40 (a version of the 40 Meter CW/SSB Transceiver for QST's Homebrew Challenge)

Innovation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Complexity (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Presentation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

7.) Robert Thomas / KC4NYK QRP transceiver with an embedded Linux Beagle Board

Innovation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Complexity (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)

Presentation (1 = good, 2 = better, 3 = best)