



THE RICHMOND HAM

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The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, January 8, 2010, 7:00pm at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

PROGRAM: John Watkins NB4B has done something that many of us would like to do. He bought a brand new shiny Flex Radio 3000 software defined transceiver. Since these transceivers require a pretty fast computer to do most of the work, John worked through all the issues of what kind of Firewire interface is needed, memory requirements, then downloading and configuring the software. He reports impressive performance with the 3000. Come and let John share his experiences with you.

Coming Events:

Radio School Registration, Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 PM. Classes begin Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 PM

VE Exams, Saturday, January 9, 9:00 AM

Frostfest, Saturday, February 6, 8:30 AM – VE Exams at Frostfest are from 12 noon to 3:00 PM

Getting to know this month's speaker

John W. Watkins Jr., born in 1943 became licensed in the early 1970's as a result of taking a local ham radio class in Richmond. His original call was WN4UOF and would not have changed his assignment after gaining his extra class license if it were WN4UFO.

Mr. Watkins was employed by the original WFMV FM operation as assistant engineer and studio announcer in 1964. These were the early days of FM stereo broadcasting. During his high school years, John worked for Westhampton Radio & Television as a part time service and installation technician.

John's "Elmer's" were Marlin D. Schribner and Thomas Kidder of the original WLEE radio station. John was chief engineer for Jarvis Sound Corporation and after purchase by the Pennsylvania based Independence Communications, became their corporate

assistant engineer and chief engineer for the Virginia and North Carolina operations. He designed and installed sound reinforcement systems for many venues including the encoded wireless sub-carrier sound system for the UVA graduation mall and the sound system at Scott Stadium which has been upgraded after twenty years service. John was a graduate from the Altec Lansing and JBL design seminars conducted over the years in Anaheim and Los Angeles, California.

John's current interests are audio restoration which recently included restoration of a rare acetate audio disc from the Nuremberg trials now owned by the Richmond Holocaust Museum. John is a very active ham radio operator in many digital modes as well as rag chewing on 1.905 MHz. In the evenings he operates from stations in Richmond and his wife's farm in Reedville, VA. John's wife, Kathe, is a general class ham with the call sign N4ICM.

From the Pres:

I joined the Richmond Amateur Radio Club because of the school. When my friends AA4SV and W4ZUV convinced me to finally go for my ham license in the mid-1990s, there was only one place to learn this stuff, the Richmond Amateur Radio Club. I got my Technician license and paid my money to become a member. The school also carried me through study for my General and repeated classes to finally get my code to the required 13 words per minute. (It only took this gray-head two years to do that!) Then it was on to Advanced, a tough slog akin to Extra today. Without those instructors, I'd never have made it. Finally, there was Extra.

I can't over-emphasize the importance of the school for our community. When I talk to local hams, the ONE thing they know about the RARC is the license prep school. When I talk to hams outside the Richmond area, they are amazed that Richmond has a club that offers a full set of classes twice a year.

We start again January 5th. Tell you friends to come study with us for a license or an upgrade. You should consider an upgrade if you haven't reached Extra yet. And don't forget to brag about

us, the "teaching club". It's our fame and we should be proud of it.

73, Bruce, W4BRU

The Tech Corner

The Club now has a few pieces of test equipment thanks to Jim Lewis W8MGZ. Jim recently donated a military RF Signal Generator with a range of 2 to 400 MHz, an HP audio signal generator which goes from 5 Hz to 600 kHz, a Knight kit VTVM, and a Heathkit in-circuit capacitor checker. There are manuals for all the equipment. Thanks, Jim! See Ron KD4XA at the meeting for info on borrowing any of this gear.

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In our December meeting, the Technical Committee inquired if the Club's membership would be interested in a kit building project for 2010. We have received three interesting suggestions that we would like to share. We look forward to discussing these suggestions and getting an indication if one of the following would be preferred by a majority of the Club's membership.

1.) A "group build" of a "Paraset" transceiver. This is a reproduction of a WWII spy radio (40 meter CW tube transceiver). Just Google "Paraset" and see the original and the many reproductions pictured on the internet.

2.) The second suggestion is a Softrock SDR receiver or transceiver. Go to Tony Park's website <http://www.kb9yig.com/> to see examples of small SDR receivers and transceivers and the current availability.

3.) Any kit related to APRS tracking. Just Google "APRS tracking kit" or have a look at the website <http://www.foxdelta.com/products/foxtrak.htm>.

In January's meeting we will spend a few minutes on this subject to get an indication of the club's interest. Please give some thought to these suggestions and have a look at the above mentioned internet sites. If you will not be able to attend January's meeting you may send your comments to Darrell Basinger at dwb05@comcast.net.

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RARC Radio School

Registration for the winter session of RARC's license prep classes will be Tuesday, January 5th, at 7:00 PM at the Bon Air United Methodist Church. Classes begin Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 PM. Classes run for 10 weeks. The VE exam is scheduled for Thursday, March 18th at 7:00 PM. If you know anyone who might be interested in attending the school, please let them know about our programs.

Complete information on our license prep classes is available on the club's website www.rarclub.net. If you have questions, please call Ron or Barbara Chase at 320-1627.

RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday, December 11, 2009
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM. -- Called to Order at: 7:08 PM
Presiding Officer – Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, President
Recording Secretary (acting) Grif Griffiths -- Call: KF4JG
Old Minutes Approved? Y -- Discussion: None
Treasurer's Report: Richard Arnold WA4FEH read the Treasurer's Report and it was filed for audit.

New Business Discussion Items:

1. A number of pieces of coax were donated for free pick-up.
2. "Linux Journal" magazine was noted for an amateur radio article.
3. Future meetings will include presentations on SDR and DSP.
4. There were a number of guests and new members. See attachment.
5. The Tech Committee would like suggestions for kit building ideas. See Darrell WW4F.

Evening's Program - Annual Holiday Social & Ham Band Video (small screen)

Presenter : Bruce MacAlister (Ham Band Video) - Call: W4BRU

Title: Pres. Affiliation: RARC

Certificate? N

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30

Submitted by Grif Call: KF4JG

Attachment: Visitors:

- * Brian Tyler KJ4NPL
- Brent Gunn
- Chris Walker KF4QZB
- Bryan Walker KJ4QZJ
- * Ed Deane KI4SHH
- * Sam Marshall KE4FSM

* Elected as new members

Upgrades:

General: Lew Best W4LEW

Extra: Dave Hines K4HIN

RARC VE News

Our next VE testing session will be **Saturday, January 9th, 9:00 AM**, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

We will also administer exams at Frostfest 2010, **Saturday, February 6th, from 12 noon until 3:00 PM** at the Richmond Raceway Complex.

If you have questions about either session, please see our website, www.rarclub.net/ or contact Mac K4YEF at 272-6185.

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/>.

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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Welcome to our new members!

Sam Marshall KE4FSM, Ed Dean KI4SHH, and Brian Tyler KJ4NPL.

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

Strays

There's a great ham e-magazine on-line that you might enjoy reading. World Radio changed from being a monthly newspaper publication to electronic and is offered FREE to anyone interested. You can find it at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html>.

Can you help?

The Club is looking for storage space for some of our Club property. It's important the goods be kept dry and protected. Items include Field Day essentials, historical items, and some electronic gear. If you have some storage space that you would be willing to share with the Club or know of someone who might, please contact Bruce W4BRU at 353-4269.

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.

For Sale: Two SX-99, One HQ-170 and a SWAN 350 with power supply. Will take best offer on all. Don Golden, KB4SCD, armyjeep@comcast.net, phone 804-744-5315.

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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:

Bruce MacAlister	W4BRU	PRESIDENT
Grif Griffiths	KF4JG	VICE-PRESIDENT
Robert Thomas	KC4NYK	SECRETARY
Richard Arnold	WA4FEH	TREASURER

Thought for the Day

No one can make you look like a fool unless you help them!

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



Don't forget: RARC Radio School registration is Tuesday, January 5th at 7:00 PM.