



THE RICHMOND HAM

Published Monthly by the Richmond Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 35279, Richmond, Virginia 23235
81st Year 1929 - 2010



MARCH 2010

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, March 12, 2010, 7:00pm at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

PROGRAM: John Cross, WB4TYS, will discuss plans for the second ham radio station at the 2010 Scout Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill.

Coming Events:

VE Exams Thursday, March 18th, 7:00 PM
March of Dimes Walk-a-thon, Sunday, May 2nd

Getting to know this month's speaker

John Cross, WB4TYS, lives in Fredericksburg and is a very active member of the Richmond section of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) which covers central Virginia from Fredericksburg to the North Carolina line. He organizes much of the teacher training and children's engineering and science education that is part of the outreach of this local IEEE group.

John is an Extra class ham. He got his first license in 1980. He runs an HW-100 (old Heath transceiver), a 706MKIIG (Icom compact transceiver), and a FT709 (old Yaesu HT). He likes to do public service activities with the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club.

He received a BS in Physics in 1969 and a BS EE in 1972, both from LSU in Baton Rouge. He worked in radio and TV stations during college and for the Navy at the Dahlgren Navy Base since then. Most of his work was in radar. He retired in 2007.

John will tell us his plans and solicit ideas for the second ham radio station at the 2010 Scout Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill. The Jamboree is an exciting gathering of 40,000 or so scouts and leaders from July 26 to August 6. It is close to Richmond so it is a great opportunity for local hams to be control operators and mentors for the scouts as they learn about and use ham radio. The station John is organizing is tied to the Electricity and Electronics merit badge

tents. Those merit badges are sponsored by the IEEE "emeritbadge" project that uses \$30,000 or more in donations to introduce scouts to technology, engineering, and science. More information on this project is available at <http://www.emeritbadges.org/>.

There is another ham station, K2BSA, tied to the Radio merit badge at another location in the Jamboree complex. The intent of the station at the electricity and electronics tent is to show the scouts the fun in electronics technology, attract them to that tent and encourage them to also go for the radio merit badge.

From the Prez:

So far this year we've gotten a view of Software Defined Radio from John Watkins, NB4B. Prof Alen Docef followed that in February telling us about Digital Signal Processing, what makes software defined radios work. In March John Cross, WB4TYS, will tell us about ham radio at this summer's Scout Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill. We have an opportunity to help define what kind of station it will be and to volunteer to staff the station at the Jamboree. In April, Sheila Blackley, K4WNW, introduces us to DX and contesting including the techniques to find stations and break through. Sheila is president of the DDXG Club. As summer approaches the Tech Committee teaches us about diagnosing problems and using test equipment and we start our kit building. It looks to be an interesting year of strong technical programs. Enjoy.

73, Bruce, W4BRU

Jim Fitzgerald K4OJE – SK

We recently lost another of our long time members, Jim Fitzgerald.

History Bits

Jim Fitzgerald, K4OJE, became a Silent Key on 2/12/2010. An old friend and one of my Elmers, communication electronics was his vocation and his hobby. He was active in RARC affairs, serving

many years as theory instructor in our FCC coach classes. His other interest was in the Civilian Air Patrol. A licensed pilot, he promoted ham radio as a useful tool for CAP members.

Jim was licensed and employed as an engineer at WMBG, WCOD, WTVR, and WWBT (which entered life as WRVA-TV). He was among those who pioneered in converting TV from black and white to color.

As the club approached its 50th birthday in 1979, the officers felt we should celebrate with a dinner. Jim, a lifelong member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, offered to ask the ladies of the kitchen to cater the meal. A sumptuous repast and an evening of reminiscing!

Ray, W4MYI

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"ON-THE-AIR Meetings"

We got a real taste of winter recently. It carried me back to the time when we resorted to on-the-air club meetings.

About thirty years ago, a spell of bad weather cut deeply in club meeting attendance. The officers decided to announce the RARC would meet via our 34/94 repeater in the event of bad weather. No problem, since most hams had 2 meter capability.

We were soon forced to try. The meeting was conducted like a directed net. The president acted as net control. Calls for check-ins, announcements, old and new business, etc., went smoothly. It finished with comments from all who had checked in. We all were pleasantly surprised to find many more check-ins than the average attendance at club meetings.

I can remember we had at least two on-the-air meetings.

Ray W4MYI

The Tech Corner

Thanks to Rob KC4NYK for presenting a quick overview of the Genesis G3020 SDR kit at the February meeting. Please let Darrell WW4F know if you are interested in building this kit.

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The D-STAR repeater is still enjoying its new (temporary) digs downtown. We hope to hear something from the building's owner soon.

RARC Radio School

The winter session of our license prep classes is winding down. Exams are scheduled for March 18th. We wish all the students good luck with their exams and thank them for allowing us to help them reach their amateur radio goals.

Our next scheduled classes will begin in September. 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 _____2/12_____ 2010
Meeting Time ____7:00PM Called to Order at 7:03 PM
Presiding Officer – Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, President
Recording Secretary __Rob Thomas _____Call:: KC4NYK
Old Minutes Approved? Y N ____ Discussion::
Treasurer's Report – Approved
Announcement - VA QSO Party Mar 20 - 22
New Business Discussion Items::
1. Robert Thomas reported on the Genesis Radio as potential for Kit Build for 2010
2. Marshall Ervine gave the Auditor's Report for 2009 A+
3. Welcomed new members:: Will Overman, KJ4PBV (also upgrade to General); Curt Overman, KJ4PBU; Chris Walker, KJ4QZB (also upgrade to General); Bryan Walker, KJ4QZJ; Floyd Callihan, K4ROG. – All accepted by unanimous vote of members.
Evening's Program __Digital Signal Processing
Presenter Professor Alan Docef VCU_____Call:: n/a
Title Professor Electrical Engineering VCU Dept. of EE
Certificate? Y ____ N
Meeting Adjourned at 7:21 PM for presentation
Submitted by Rob Thomas__ Call::KC4NYK

VE Testing at Frostfest

In spite of a driving snowstorm, VE Testing went on at FROSTFEST 2010. The RARC VE Team got snowed in and couldn't make it so the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society put together another testing team from those already at Frostfest. Members of the **Wakefield Skywarn VE Team** led by Brad Price, K14BWJ, are Rob Turner, KG4YJB, Steve Crow, KG4PEQ, and Oliver Kanervikkoaho, KF4HVX. Joe Landers, KE4EUE,

Mike Hackett, AC5PT, and Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, assisted with administrative tasks.

There were 29 applicants. The testing session resulted in 14 Techs, five Generals, and six Extras for a total of 25 passing with upgrade or new tickets.

Many thanks to the Wakefield Skywarn VE Team for stepping up to the plate and taking care of business.

RARC VE News

Our next VE testing session will be **Thursday, March 18th, 7:00 PM**, at the Bon Air United Methodist Church.

If you have questions about a 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 McNear 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 on his website. Google "W4PW" for current URL.

Welcome to our new members!

Will Overman, KJ4PBV; Curt Overman, KJ4PBU; Chris Walker, KJ4QZB; Bryan Walker, KJ4QZJ; and Floyd Callihan, K4ROG.

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.

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

Refreshments

Christy Osterloh KC4PKK is providing refreshments at our monthly meetings this year. She is assisted by her husband Bob N4ICT. That good coffee you've been drinking...made by Bob! Don't forget to bring a goodie to share occasionally. Many thanks to Christy and Bob for adding the refreshment component to our monthly meetings.

Heads-Up!



Field Day 2010 is coming June 26 and 27, 2010

Planning for this year's Field Day will begin soon. Please let us know if you plan to attend and what you would like to see us do differently this year. We're open to suggestions. Please contact Bruce W4BRU with your thoughts and ideas for this annual event.

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.

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

Youth is a wonderful thing. What a crime to waste it on children.
(G B Shaw)

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