



THE RICHMOND HAM

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JUNE 2010

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, June 11, 2010, 7:00pm at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

PROGRAM: Mel Ford, W4AHC, and Darrell Basinger, WW4F, will present part one of a two-part program on troubleshooting. The focus of June's program will be test equipment. July's meeting will be the basic application of that test equipment.

The meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall. This is our normal meeting place.

Coming Events:

Special Olympics, Friday and Saturday, June 11/12
Field Day, Saturday, June 26
VE Exams, Saturday, July 10, 9:00 AM

Getting to know this month's speakers

June speakers, Mel Ford, W4AHC, and Darrell Basinger WW4F, will cover "fixin' stuff". They are true professionals with the licenses and experience to show for it. Mel retired after years of maintaining the vast radio network of the Virginia State Police. He holds a FCC commercial license as well as an amateur license. Darrell's experience includes years of maintaining industrial controls in high-speed manufacturing equipment. They know how to diagnose and treat electronic problems. Unlike the days when hams built their own equipment from kits or construction articles, today's densely packed transceivers are almost frightening to open and examine. Breaking a \$2,000 "rice-box" is not a smart procedure.

Mel and Darrell will show you how you can begin the diagnosis process and how to run minimally-invasive tests to isolate the trouble. Often the problem is a simple one you can fix. With that process, if you do have to send it to a trained professional for service, at least you have a pretty good idea what is wrong, a better idea of what it will cost, and you haven't wasted your funds on a minor problem you could have fixed yourself.

From the Prez:

The Silent Auction (Friday night) and Yard Sale (Saturday) were a great success. About half of the amount raised was from the silent auction. The fundraiser is a big help in a club that gets most of its operating funds from the very reasonable \$15 a year dues. We are likely to have specific needs for our D-Star repeater this year. I would name all those who drove this successful fund-raising, but I'd leave a name or five out, so "you know who you are".

Field Day takes a different turn this year. In the past the Tech committee has set it up at the church, tied to a picnic, specifically for us older members who do better in the more civilized air conditioning there. Well, folks came for the picnic but didn't stay for the field day. In other words, it wasn't working. So, we're changing it this year. First we surveyed the members by e-mail and nine (9) members said they would participate. Zeke, KJ4ASG, offered to take it into the field with his RV if there was interest. Ben, KD4TZQ, said he would join Zeke. Zeke and Rob began a search for a location, preferably a park with a nice setting and a public to entice into ham radio. In this day of slim budgets, though, most government-owned parks want money for the right to use them in this way. The good news is Field Day is returning to its roots of 1933 by truly being "in the field".

73, Bruce, W4BRU



Field Day 2010

Field Day this year will be a one day event on Saturday, June 26 from 12noon to 6pm at the [Harry G. Daniel Park](#) which is at 6600 White Pine Road off of Rt. 10 (Iron Bridge Road) near intersection with Route 288. At the park we will be located in the parking lot near Shelter No.1, but

not in the shelter. Our base of operations will be at a 31ft., fifth wheel RV with shade canopy and tables for a GOTA Station and other radios. Antennas will be of the mobile and portable type for quick set-up to emulate an emergency response which is one of the purposes of Field Day. Ice water and soft drinks will be provided. Since we do not have a kitchen and grills are not allowed in the parking lot, food will not be provided but you can bring your own. Porta-potties are available near the parking lot. For a map of the park, go to website: www.chesterfield.gov/parks. We'll have more details at the June meeting. Many thanks to Zeke, KJ4ASG, for making these arrangements!

RARC Annual Picnic Postponed

The Club's annual picnic, which has been part of our Field Day activities, has been postponed until later in the year. There will be more information at the June meeting.

Dayton Hamvention 2010

Going to Dayton is like making a pilgrimage to a Religious Shrine. It is something a Ham should do at least once in their lifetime.

Due to various reasons we were able to attend for only one day (Sat.) but it was worth it. The event was well organized and complete with golf cart shuttles from the parking lot to the main hall. The printed program was free and of good quality. The program listed all inside vendors with their Booth Numbers and map locations. Therefore, you could plan ahead for what you wanted to see and hear at the forums. Due to the enormity of the inside vendors we were unable to visit the outside vendors. Even the parking lot was educational if you are interested in mobile antennas. The main building is like a basketball stadium with several acres of connected buildings. A map is necessary to negotiate the maze. To do the convention justice, one should allow 6-7 days for attendance since it is a 12 hour drive one-way from Richmond. Next year I will visit the tailgaters first!

73, Zeke KJ4ASG

History Bits

We hope that Ray's column will return in the next issue.

The Tech Corner

Just as a reminder, the Club has an RF Signal Generator, an Audio Signal Generator, a VTVM, and a capacitor checker that may be borrowed by Club members. See Ron, KD4XA, if you would like to borrow any or all of these items.

RARC Radio School

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 VE News

Our next VE testing session will be **Saturday, July 10th, 9:00 AM**, 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 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 on his website <http://pwsite.org/hamtests.htm>.

Welcome to our new members!

Jon Bennett NQ4A, Norman Graham KC4ESY, Gary Martinez, KI4ZLB, and Angel A. Rodriguez, KJ4SNX.

RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date _____5/14_____ 2010

Meeting Time ____7:00PM Called to Order at 1900 Hrs PM

Presiding Officer – Richard Arnold, WA4FEH, Treasurer

Recording Secretary __Richard Arnold; Call: WA4FEH

Old Minutes Approved? Y X N ____

Discussion: :

Treasurer's Report – Approved

Announcement – Request by Joe Landers, KE4EUE for help with the Special Olympics on June 11th and 12th.

New Business Discussion Items::

1. Field Day June 26-27
2. Welcomed three new members:
 - Gary Martinez, KI4ZLB, Technician
 - Norman Graham, KC4ESY, returning to club.
 - Angel A. Rodriguez, KJ4SNX, General
 - Jon Bennett, NQ4A, Extra

Evening's Program

W. Marshall Denny, AI4CM from Virginia Beach presented a wonderful program on tuned feeders cut to specific lengths to act as impedance transformers. Tuned feeders are a much under-used method of matching antennas to radios.

Marshall Ervine, N4XBP conducted a silent auction consisting of two antennas and two amateur stations. Joe Mahoney, KI4GAP was the winning bid on the Yaesu FT-102 Xcvr. Fred Adams, KJ4EEJ was the winning bid on the Swan 350-C Xcvr. Greg Curti, KG4KWW had the winning bid for the tri-band beam antenna and Brian Walker, KJ4QZJ had the winning bid on the Diamond X500 vertical antenna.

A Club Certificate was presented to Marshall Denny, AI4CM for his presentation; Y_X_/ N ___

Meeting Adjourned at __7:28____ PM for presentation

Submitted by Richard Arnold__ Call: WA4FEH

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

Public Service

Special Olympics will be held June 11 & 12. You may sign up to help at Joe Lander's website <http://www.ke4eue.org/> if you are interested in helping with the event.

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.

Silent Auction/Yard Sale

I was asked to coordinate the 2010 fundraiser and am happy to report it was a success. Why? Read on.

There are some people who need to be thanked and **the first one is you** who donated ham equipment for the silent auction or ran tests on it to make sure it was in good working condition and **you** who gathered up things (including plants) for the yard sale and got them to the church. If there had been no response to the call for donations, there would have been no fundraiser.

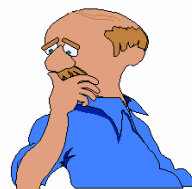
Those who helped make sure the silent auction and yard sale ran smoothly were: Richard Arnold, Mel Ford, Tom and Joyce Ebbert, and granddaughter, Paige Childress; Nancy and Ed Bryce; Christy and Bob Osterloh; Harriett and George O'Mara; Barbara and Ron Chase; Beverly and Mac McNeer, and Fritz Schumacher. I hope I have not inadvertently left any name off this list.

It was a group effort on Friday night and the assistance you gave was appreciated.

Marshall Ervine, N4XBP

Need some technical help?

Need help with a ham related technical problem but don't know where to turn? Don't forget that your Club newsletter has a new feature called "Expert Needed" and the purpose is to connect our members with someone willing to offer their assistance in solving the problem. It worked for W4BRU and it can work for you. Just drop Ray, W4MYI, a note describing your problem and it will be in the next issue of The Richmond Ham.



EXPERT NEEDED

No one needed an expert again this month. Send your request to Ray Roberts w4myi@arrl.net and we will post it in the next newsletter.

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: Icom 720A with manuals. \$300.00 or best offer. Ben Richardson, KD4TZQ, 359-9538, kd4tzq@comcast.net.

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

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

Thought for the Day

Usually those who have only themselves to blame are the most eager to blame others.

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