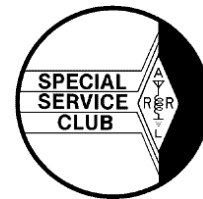




THE RICHMOND HAM

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JULY 2010

The RICHMOND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will meet Friday, July 9, 2010, 7:00pm at the Bon Air United Methodist Church, 1645 Buford Road.

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

Coming Events:

VE Exams, Saturday, July 10, 9:00 AM
RARC Annual Picnic, Friday, August 13, 6:45 PM

Getting to know this month's speakers

July 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 and, of course, many years as a ham.

From the Prez:

From July 25 to August 3 you may hear some youthful voices on HF figuring out how to communicate using ham radio. Those voices will be coming from K2BSA forty miles north at Fort A P Hill where 43,000 scouts, leaders and staff will gather for the 2010 Scout Jamboree. At the Jamboree exams prep classes will be held, exams given, and licenses earned. It is one way – I think the best way – to earn the Radio Merit Badge. Ham radio is mostly a hobby to us, but to young boys and girls it is often their entry into really challenging technology. It takes much more skill to hook up an HF ham rig than an HDTV with all its connections.

Not only does a ham license give them lots of RF-space to experiment, but they get to spend time around techies like us. The equipment is

nice to have and use but it's having technical people to talk to that can make the difference on whether or not they become engineers and scientists. I remember lots of technical people around me – engineers mostly – and it influenced my career choice. Most kids don't get that opportunity. In fact you and I may be the only chance they have to connect with technically skilled adults.

Don't think that you're not technical enough just because you don't have a degree in it or don't know it all. You have earned a license, haven't you? When it comes to radio, you're way ahead of them. You and I need to use that so we inspire the young people to invent the stuff we need and want. After all, not all inventions and discoveries should come from India and China.

73, Bruce, W4BRU

RARC Annual Picnic

The annual picnic will be held at our August meeting. There will be no formal program to allow more time for fun and fellowship among the members. This will be a covered dish affair and the club will furnish bread, drinks, paper products and eating utensils.

To facilitate variety of foods, a suggestion is that those members whose last names begin with letters A-E bring meat/meat dishes; F-L bring vegetable dishes; M-P bring fruit/fruit dishes; Q-Z bring desserts. If you have a favorite dish you would like to share and it doesn't fit into the above categories, please feel free to bring it. The picnic will be held at our normal meeting place, 1645 Buford Road, in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope to see you there!



RARC is an ARRL Affiliated Club

Field Day 2010



Zeke KJ4ASG logs for Ben KD4TZQ

Photos by Greg KG4KWW

Our members spoke and we listened. Field Day 2010 was to be held in the field, and it was. Thanks to Zeke, KJ4ASG, for coordinating this year's event, finding a suitable location, providing the RV, generators, and other essential components. Thanks also to Richard, WA4FEH, for all his hard work during setup and teardown and for helping during the operating portion of the event. Zeke and Richard were first on the site and the last ones to leave. We have many others to thank for their assistance in making the event a success as well as members and visitors who stopped by to visit during the day.



The event was held at Harry Daniel's Park near the Chesterfield Airport in the parking lot of Shelter #1. Zeke's RV was the "command center". We had two HF stations in operation plus a GOTA station. Over 30 folks attended the event. It was a very hot and humid day but a lot of fun was had by all.

History Bits

June 1986 was our first meeting at the C&P engineering building, 10 North Nansemond Street. Fred Berger, K4LJF, a telephone company engineer, was our official host. Security was tight. We parked in the lot at the rear of the block-long building, knocked on the entrance door, a member admitted us. We signed in at the door, made a temporary name badge, and went down to the conference room --- air conditioned and quiet!

We enjoyed these plush accommodations for several years. Then the powers that be decided to remodel the conference room area into private offices. So, we relocated to the lunch room/snack bar. Not too bad, since we could enjoy a soda or a snack as we went through RARC business. Programs were another matter. We were limited by a lack of outlets, no screen for the projector, seating limited to round tables with four chairs.

Though the club will always be indebted to Fred for his help, the officers felt it was time to look around again.

Ray W4MYI

The Tech Corner

Anthony, KG4YXP, has discovered a really neat new device that allows access to the D-STAR network. The DV Access Point functions like a repeater so the configuration is similar to connecting to a repeater, but it also uses commands to link and unlink so it is like IRLP as there are reflectors and they seem to be quite active. Anthony purchased an Internet Labs DV Access Point Dongle so he can connect to the D-Star network via the Internet. It is an interesting item and Anthony would like to demonstrate the system at a club meeting in the future. He is also looking at a hotspot kit that can be configured as a portable repeater. Stay tuned...



RARC Radio School

Are you planning to get your Tech license or to upgrade to General or Extra? We can help. RARC offers license prep classes twice a year and the Fall session is coming soon. Registration is September 7 and classes begin September 14. Complete information on our license prep classes is available on the club's website www.rarclub.net.

We are always looking for volunteers to add to our instructor pool. If you are savvy in electronics, we would love to have you join the team. The pay stinks, but the rewards are priceless.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, 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. The new Technician Class question pool is now in effect.

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 K4TTM (932-9424) has information on his website <http://pwsite.org/hamtests.htm>.

Recent Statistics on Licensing Classes and Exams from ARRL

You're probably aware that more than 30,000 new hams were licensed in 2009, 30,144 to be exact. Thanks to all the efforts of volunteers who provided instructors and conducted exam sessions! This year license activity has matched last year's level so we appear to be on track for another blockbuster year. As of the end of May, 14,853 new hams were licensed by all VECs. This tops the 13,833 new licenses issued through May of last year!

Here's the breakdown of exam activity during the first quarter by license level.

LICENSE TYPE	1 st Qtr 2008 LICENSE COUNT	1 st Qtr 2009 LICENSE COUNT	1 st Qtr 2010 LICENSE COUNT
EXTRA	1423	949	789
GENERAL	2893	2609	3202
TECHNICIAN	6948	7057	7364
TOTAL	11264	10615	11355

Courtesy ARRL Instructor/Teacher Newsletter – June 2010

Welcome to our new members!

Kathleen Beckwith, KI4UWP, and Beverly McNeer, KF4SPU.

RARC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date _____6/11_____ 2010

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

Presiding Officer – Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU, President

Recording Secretary __Zeke Zeanon; Call: KJ4ASG

Old Minutes Approved? Y X N ____
 Discussion: :

Treasurer's Report – Approved

Announcement – Zeke provided information on Field Day event.

New Business Discussion Items: :

1. Welcomed two new members:
 - Bev McNeer, KF4SPU, Technician
 - Kathleen Beckwith, KI4UWP, General

Evening's Program

Mel Ford, W4AHC, and Darrell Basinger, WW4F, presented program on troubleshooting techniques. This was part one of a two part program.

A Club Certificate was presented to Mel Ford, W4AHC, and Darrell Basinger, WW4F, for their presentation; Y__ / N X

Meeting Adjourned at __8:10_____ PM

Submitted by Zeke Zeanon__ Call: KJ4ASG

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

MRA

Interested in information or support of the **Metropolitan Repeater Association**? Call Ed, KG4SNK, at 804-513-1947. The sole business of the MRA is to own, operate, and maintain the 145.430 repeater.

EXPERT NEEDED

If you need help with something ham related, 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 descriptive information 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.

Interested in swapping a Hallicrafters radio Mod. S-107 Mark II for a UHF transceiver capable of hitting the RATS CH. 23 tower repeater at 442.55 on the 440 band? Can add money. Herb Johansen, KI4HWS, 379-9530, HLNORSK@YAHOO.COM

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

If you want to put your money in something that is sure to go up, try taxes.