

Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society
SOLID COPY
MAY 1999

MAY MEETING

Friday, May 21, at 8:00 PM, Derbyshire Baptist Church, 8800 Derbyshire Road. This is the last meeting at Derbyshire. See everyone there!

MEETING PLACE TO CHANGE

RATS will no longer be able to use the current facilities after the May meeting. The new location has not yet been finalized. Check the June Solid Copy and/or listen to the RATS 146.880 repeater for information on the new location.

VE EXAMS

Saturday, June 12, 1999 9:00 AM

Saturday, August 14, 1999 9:00 AM

at J. S. Reynolds Community College, 1651 East Parham Road, Building B, Room 201. Pre-register with PAT WILSON, K4OW at 932-9424 or email at w4pw@arrl.net. Pat's web page is <http://www.mcws.net/pat>

Monday, June 7, 1999. 7:30 PM

at the Curtis Elementary School, 3600 W. Hundred Road (Route 10), Chester, VA.

Monday, July 5, 1999. 7:30 PM

Aunt Sarah's, I-95 & Willis Road Exit

Pre-register with TONY AMATO, KR4UQ, at 717-5237. Tony's web page is <http://www.kr4uq>.

JUNE EVENTS

Field Day – June 26 & 27
Special Olympics
Virginia Dare Bike Race

Your participation and help are always appreciated.

DANNY SHEEHAN, SK

It is with great sorrow that I report DANNY SHEEHAN, KD4SUU passed from us to the Lord this morning (April 21) at about 5:30 a.m. Danny had been hospitalized with cancer, said to be a result of Agent Orange exposure, at Johnston Willis Hospital for approximately 3 weeks. Danny was a long time Assistant Emergency Coordinator of Chesterfield ARES. A former RATS member and Board Member, the Control Operator of the KD4SUU 6 meter and 70 centimeter repeaters in Chesterfield, Virginia. Danny was a member of ARRL and the SERA. Danny is survived by his wife Linda and 4 children. Danny was well known in Virginia and West Virginia amateur communities, and one of the most loved Amateur Radio Operators in the Metro Richmond area. He will be sorely missed. As it was said of Will Rogers, "Danny never met a man (or woman) he didn't like." Danny was responsible for putting up more towers than anyone can count, and was always available to help any amateur who needed antenna, tower, or any other form of assistance.

Submitted by Tony Amato, KR4UQ

RULES & REGS News from the ARRL and FCC

NEW VHF CATEGORY

The ARRL Awards Committee has accepted a Contest Advisory Committee recommendation for the addition of a Single Operator Low Power entry category for VHF contests. Maximum power limits for this category will be:

- ⚡ 200 W PEP on 50 MHz and 144 MHz,
- ⚡ 100 W PEP on 222 MHz and 432 MHz,

and 10 W PEP on 902 MHz and above.

This rule will not affect the current Single Op QRP Portable category.

Certificates and awards are being developed for the new category according to current awards structure. The goal of this new category is to "encourage greater participation among the large number of VHF/UHF contest enthusiasts, many of whom can be competitive at lower power levels."

For more information, contact Dan Henderson, N1ND, Contest Branch Manager, n1nd@arrl.org.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, May 7, 1999

1999 FIELD DAY RULE CHANGES;

NEW PIN

This year's field day event, June 26-27, will bring a significant change in rules. Those using batteries to power their equipment will be allowed to charge them while in use. The change affects all entry classes except Class D (home stations using commercial power; home stations using emergency power, including rechargeable batteries, should enter Class E). Until now, only Class C (mobile) stations could charge batteries while in use. As previously, batteries must be charged from a power source independent of the commercial mains.

Also, for the first time, ARRL will have annual Field Day pins available to participants. Pins will be \$5.00 each. Field Day groups should collect money and send a single order for the number of pins needed.

Field Day is now in its 66th year. The first "International Field Day" was held June 10-11, 1913 as a test of portable equipment, the idea of then-Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI. The aspect of emergency preparedness was raised in Handy's Field Day write-up in QST the following year.

Participants should read the General Rules for ALL ARRL Contests (<http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/99/rules-all.html>) regarding entries. Entries must be postmarked by July 27, 1999 and should include a Summary Sheet and Dupe Sheet as well as supporting information for publicity, bonus points, etc. Entries can also be submitted electronically via email.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, April 23, 1999

HAPPY 85TH, ARRL

The ARRL celebrates its 85th anniversary on May 18, 1999. The League was founded in 1914 by Hiram Percy Maxim, later 1AW, and Clarence Tuska, later 1AY. During the week of May 17 – 23, W1AW will operate as special event station W1AW/85, including some PSK31 operation, to mark the event. A special QSL will be available.

"Our celebration of the League's 85th anniversary would please our founders in two ways. First, we are celebrating with on-the-air activity – the organization, promotion, and protection of which was why they went to the trouble of creating the League in the first place. Second, just as they did in the exciting early years, we are looking forward by emphasizing new methods of radio communication", according to Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Coincidentally, the League's anniversary celebration begins on World Telecommunications Day, May 17.

The League arose from Maxim's attempt in 1914 to send an inquiry about a hard-to-get receiving tube, a deForest audion- from Hartford, Connecticut, to Springfield, Massachusetts. When conditions kept him from working Springfield directly, he arranged for a station between the two cities to relay the message. Maxim's vision became reality in May of that year as he worked with Tuska through the Radio Club of Hartford—which had voted to take over development of a national "relay" organization. By late summer there were over 200 "relay stations" across the US. The first edition of QST—all of 16 pages—did not appear until December 1915.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, May 14, 1999

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS DAY

"Greetings and congratulations" were conveyed to the ITU from International Amateur Radio Union Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, on the occasion of World Telecommunications Day, May 17.

This year's theme, Electronic Commerce, reminds us of the dramatic changes that have taken place in telecommunications and the ITU in the past decade. Sumner added that there must always be a place for those "whose interest in radio communication is noncommercial." Sumner pointed out that hams have made significant contributions to technical advances that made electronic commerce possible, and that knowledge and skills gained through a hobby can be a substantial benefit to employers and society as a whole.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, May 14, 1999

ARRL NAME CHANGE

Instead of a legal name change, the ARRL Executive Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors emphasizing the "ARRL" abbreviation used along with the tag line "The National Association for Amateur Radio." The ARRL moniker and tag line would appear on all League Correspondence and publications without a legal name change, if approved. The EC recommended putting off further name-change discussion until the January 2000 board meeting when the Board is scheduled to receive a report from Sumner regarding planning for Amateur Radio in 2010 and beyond. The organization's name should make its purposes and objectives clear to outsiders.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, May 14, 1999

FCC ENFORCEMENT LINE DROPPED

Enforcement complaints now must be sent by US mail or email. The Amateur Enforcement Line, which was begun when the FCC was beefing up enforcement, was never meant to be permanent.

Amateur-related complaints should be sent via email to fccham@fcc.gov or by US mail to:

Compliance and Information Bureau
ATTN Amateur Radio Complaints
1270 Fairfield Rd
Gettysburg, PA 17325

TNX ARRL Letter Online, April 30, 1999

SPECIAL EVENT CALL SIGNS

There will be no expansion of the special event call sign program. The FCC has rejected the ARRL request to permit the use of special event call sign formats other than the current one-by-one (1x1) format. There is interest, according to the ARRL, in having special events call signs that could symbolize a particular event or type of event. Special events call signs denoting US territories and possessions having no mailing address were also included in the petition. Currently there are 750 combinations of 1x1 call signs, which can be requested by those wanting a special events call sign for a limited period of time. The FCC was not convinced that the demand exceeded the current supply of special events call signs, and said that the complexity of creating new formats outweighed the need to create them. The ARRL was encouraged to monitor demand, and the door was left open to revisit this issue later.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, April 30, 1999

STATES –WIDE RADIO AMATEURS ASSIST AFTER TRAGEDY

Ham radio operators were once again on the scene, ready to help after the Columbine High School killings in Littleton, Colorado and the shootings in a Salt Lake City, Utah library a few days earlier where three people died.

Hams have supported Salvation Army canteens set up at Columbine for law enforcement, the media and thousands of visitors. About 25 to 30 operators working in three six-hour shifts provided communication between facilities around Columbine High and adjacent Clement Park, and the site of a makeshift memorial for the victims.

In Salt Lake City on April 15, a gunman walked into the Family History Library and started shooting. Two people were killed and five wounded before police shot and killed the gunman.

Two library employees who are hams used amateur simplex frequencies to exchange information to evacuate the building. After one of them had to leave the building, he relayed to police what he was hearing from the other amateur still inside.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, April 30, 1999

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO CORNER

THREE OFFICERS OF RAC RESIGN

Three officers of Radio Amateurs of Canada, president Patrick Doherty, VE3PD, secretary Joe MacPherson, VE1CH, and treasurer John Watson, VE3GTX, resigned their respective positions recently. Doherty succeeded long-time president J. Farrell "Hoppy" Hopwood, VE7RD on January 1. During his four months in office, Doherty oversaw significant changes. He drastically cut RAC expenses to balance the 1999 budget in light of dwindling membership and falling revenues. The Canadian Amateur magazine has been scaled back from 11 to six annual issues. He reorganized the RAC management team and cut and realigned headquarters staff. No reason for his resignation was given. First vice president Doug Leach, VE3XK, will act as president until the Board of Directors appoints a new president.

MacPherson, secretary since January 1, 1998, stepped down because of "new outside responsibilities that will require almost all of his free time." Former RAC secretary-treasurer Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, will serve as secretary temporarily. Watson was appointed by Doherty and had

been in office since January 1, 1999. He assisted Doherty in implementing cost-cutting measures and had developed a detailed budget for 1999. No reason was given for his leaving.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, May 7 & 14, 1999

DITS 'N DAHS

A column about miscellaneous topics

ICOM AMERICA SPLITS

On July 1, ICOM America will split into ICOM America and ICOM Canada as a result of internal restructuring. President Bob Brunkow, K7NHE, will become the sole owner of the ICOM Canada distribution business and will take over as its new president and chairman. Hiro Nakaoka, JK3UZC, will become president of ICOM America.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, April 30, 1999

DAYTON

Former astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, the first person to operate amateur radio from space, will address the AMSAT Forum and the Youth Forum. Rock star Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, and his band will entertain at the Saturday banquet. Riley Holingsworth, K4ZDH, FCC's top enforcer, will address enforcement issues at FCC forums, and the 3865 Drake and Antique Radio Tube Net Group. Former NBC reporter and producer Roy Neal, K6DUE, will be a special guest of the ARRL Media Relations Forum. A Dayton Hamvention special event station, W8BI, will be on the air on all bands Friday through Sunday during business hours. QSL cards for certificates require a 9X12 SASE to W8BI/8, PO Box 44, Dayton, OH 45401. Alinco is sponsoring the station this year.

TNX ARRL Letter Online, May 14, 1999



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SWATCH STOPS JUST IN TIME

Swatch, the Swiss watchmaker, planned to promote their new line of watches by broadcasting voice messages into space and back to earth over amateur radio frequencies. Swatch, in cooperation with Russian space authorities, planned to use a mini-Sputnik called "Beatnik" and AMSAT-FR project formerly to be known as RS-19 to transmit these recorded messages on 145.8 to 146.0 MHz.

This plan would violate several regulations governing the use of amateur radio, specifically no commercial use, no broadcasting, third party international, traffic, etc. I first read an article regarding this by Rob Carlson, KC2AEI, on the Ham Radio Online (<http://hamradio-online>) website. He and others researched the issue, and Carlson called for a boycott of Swatch products. Thanks to the efforts of some watchful hams and the French authorities, Swatch decided against broadcasting these messages.

INTERNET InSITEs

Amateur Radio, Electronics, and Technology Related Websites

Ham Radio Repeater Guides <http://www.ac6v.com/pageai.html#WW>

Page from AC6V's mega-site listing various repeater sources in the US and around the world. US repeaters can be looked up by state. Also has a list of 10-meter FM repeater

VHF Links/Utilities <http://fs1.ilk.de/sites/gap/traf.htm>

Links to master clock (U S Naval Observatory), time zones page which allows user to make customized time-zone card, National Institute of Standards and Technology site software which will adjust a personal computer clock, locator maps, VHF-DX database and more.

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